



APA-TECH

10100
(#20)

The
555 Times #20

THE
AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION
FOR AND BY
THE MEMBERS OF

G

G.T. Buckfast · Renee Sieber

Inigo Montoya · Marty Franz

Shalmaneser · Greg Ruffa

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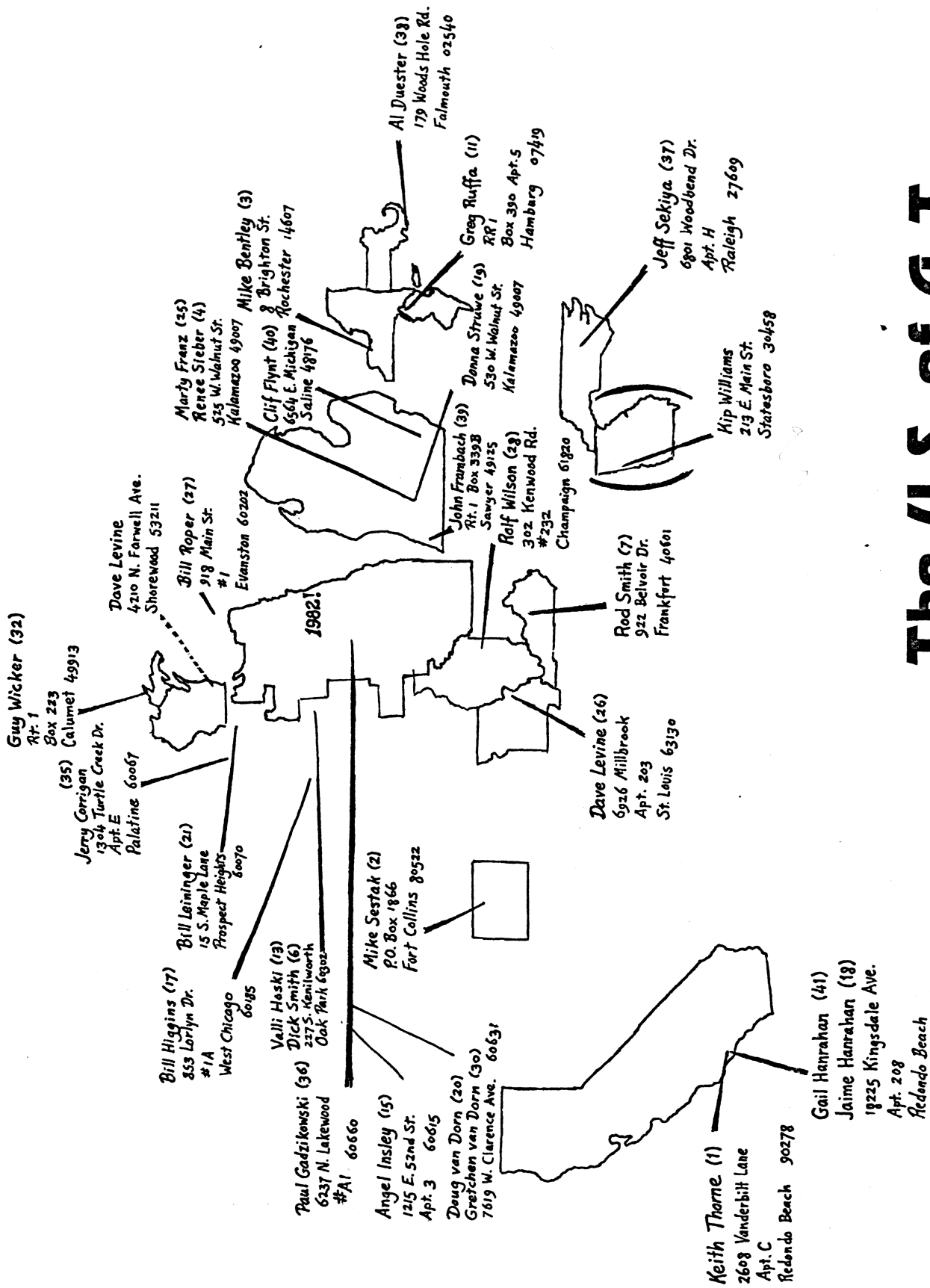


The next deadline is Sunday, October 10th in Kalamazoo.

The copy count is now reduced to **30**; the minimum requested activity is two pages every other issue.

THOSE LIVING UNDER A CLOUD: Mike B., John, Marty, Bill R., Renee, Donna, Keith

THE DOOMED: Angel, Bill L., Jeff, Gretchen, Guy, Rolf



The U.S. of A-T

Ahem

Ya know, a guy could take this poison, what with this being the skimpiest issue we've had in a couple years. We're NEVER gonna wipe out the trees THIS way... Now, I'm going to expect a big "shadow" issue at the Worldcon!

Those of you "under a cloud" last contributed to A-T #18 and really should send out a post-mailing or something. For those of you who are doomed, this will be your last issue and my last request to you for contributions; since we haven't heard from you (at least HERE) in at least six months, we'll assume you really do wish to depart. Of course, if you do send us something in the future, you will more than likely be reinstated.

We got a spiffy Kip Williams cover this time. I'm not even going to explain it: we'll let you folks figure it out. (Hint: Scott Kim)

The next issue's theme, at GTB's suggestion, is TEN YEARS FROM NOW: APA-TECH #81. What will life and technology be like then? Will there be any distinction?? Will President Haig try to re-elect himself to a third term? Will giant extraterrestrial robots smash Tokyo AGAIN?! Will there BE an issue #81?

Where were YOU in '92?

See (almost all of) you in CHICAGO...

Shal.

Until then,

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DOWN TO THE SEA WITH CHIPS

Violently wrenched free from the confines of his rather limited skull, this is to be the maybe-minor-and-then-some contribution by Al Duester for Apa-Tech 20. The afore mentioned porpoise molester lives at 179 Woods Hole Road, Falmouth, MA 02540 (617) 540-3250, a stone's throw (if you happen to be able to throw a stone 3 kilometers) from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute where he can usually be found if not at home, working on fiendish inventions of oceanographic or personal nature. The telly at work has a number of (617) 548-1400 x2421 and can be used to contact him at any time without fear of raising his boss' ire. Intensely personal contact may be strained by the close proximity of working acquaintances (but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try!).

Howdy folks. This was originally going to be written up in my car on the way to Inconjunction, but halfway through the first page we almost had an accident and I smeared the type all over. I was using my old manual typewriter with erasable paper. Now that I'm back at WHOI I can use the word processor once again. No more typing in my car until I get a portable word processor, and then only in the front seat.

Inconjunction was very enjoyable. PFRC was there but Chicago wasn't - how come? The con provided me with a very much needed break from work and a chance to get together with a good number of close friends - something lacking out here.

I drove from Woods Hole to Indy and back rather than flying. Bonnie Jones had been in Mass. on a class trip and stopped in to visit. Since it was cheaper for the two of us to drive than for either of us to fly, I decided to drive. Stopping long enough to gloat onto some lobsters we headed out to Rochester on the first leg of the trip to spend the night at Jeff & Carol's place. Several of us got together for a lobster cook - Mike & Alice, John Hall & Joann, and Sheila (who didn't want any lobster). The look on Jeff's face when I pulled the 6 3/4 pound lobster out of the box was amazing. We put it down on the floor in front of the dog who sniffed a bit until the lobster raised its claws. Byte immediately switched into full speed reverse at that point and got out of the room. By the end of the evening, the eight of us had stuffed ourselves to the limit and we hadn't even finished off all of the four lobsters I had brought. Of course, we still managed to fit in just a little bit more cheesecake anyway.

Before the evening had ended, we had somehow talked Alice into accompanying us on the journey. Early the next morning we said goodbye to Rochester and trundled down the Tollway toward Indianapolis. We made good time, Piglet (my Honda) having been cured of his clogged fuel-filter the previous day. After what seemed like a drive that wasn't long enough to really be 600 miles, we pulled into the parking lot of the Hilton.

The con was fairly well run, with the exception of having the art show auction rules changed at the last minute - in other words, during the auction. The powers that be decided that they would put up for bid some of the pieces that had not reached the number of bids needed to send the piece to auction. Several folks got kinda pissed, needless to say (but I'm saying it anyway because I need to fill up space). I got kind of frustrated because I had brought my Jittlov films, and the projector decided that Animato was indeed a tasty morsel to munch.

Not only that, but the replacement projector also had tastes that ran in the same fashion. And it wasn't operator error either. I've used the same type projectors before and I should have known better than to run good films on a Singer. No irreparable damage, at least.

But the con was still a very good relaxacon that I'd recommend for next year. It was better than last year's Inconjunction, which makes me think that the local fan group is learning. Mary Lynn Skirvin seems to be having a good influence on them. This partly showed up in the weapons policy, which restricted real firearms, lasers larger than class 2, kept steel sheathed in function areas, and absolutely outlawed thermo-nuclear or thermo-stellar devices. We had no incidents or problems of any kind, so far as I'm aware. The Chicon committee might take note.

The return trip to Rochester was longer than it should have been. Normally the return trip seems shorter, but not this time. Still, Alice and I got back in plenty of time to wait around with Mike for the lunar eclipse to occur. We all fell asleep after the moon started to enter the umbra though. I woke up sometime during totality, and we went outside but couldn't find the moon! The haze was just enough to block it from our sight (or so we thought). We went back to sleep for the rest of the night. I woke up around eleven and Alice showed me around the neighborhood before it was time to make the long journey back to Woods Hole alone. Nine hours later I got back. Tired, I decided to go down to the lab to see if things were really frantic and try to help if it was absolutely necessary. You see, I had taken vacation the week prior to a major cruise leaving, and although I wasn't involved at the time in any of the projects that were going, one of the projects was the LDV, one that I had done a lot of work on in the past. When I got to the lab, there was noone there, and I thought I was going to be able to sleep. As I was preparing to walk out the door, the phone rang and the guard handed it to me. *Sigh* I was there for another seven hours that evening working. By the time I left, the two of us that were working were becoming incoherent though the laser in the LDV wasn't. The instrument was working again and partially mounted. The next morning we came back and got the cruise off only three hours later than planned. Having spent my vacation not resting at a convention, I am now quite tired and looking forward to the next few weeks of quiet (I hope that it's quiet now that half the section is out at sea).

Mailing comments on #18 and #19 (homogenized)

Rod Smith: Dexter Dickenson is an artist who does a lot of similar type stuff that can be found at most Midwestern cons. Come north a little more often and you should be able to catch plenty of his stuff (though he'll probably have stuff at Rivercon). // Plans for the Roetem are nifty. Can you print the address for the place to get the Crown Engines? Is Enerjet still in the business? // Using dorms for vacation travel can be done. When John Frambach and I came East last year in search of jobs, we were getting tired out in the middle of Connecticut and didn't relish the idea of sleeping in the Honda or forking over cash for a motel room. The Rand-McNally road atlas had a university listed twenty miles away, so we drove over to the campus and acted suspicious until we "found" some campus police. We then explained that we were students from MTU, showed our expired student ID cards, explained how we were looking for jobs or advanced schooling and asked politely if it would be possible to get a dorm room for the night. School was out, the students were gone, and the dorm was in disarray from being painted, but we got a room and mattresses to put our sleeping bags on at no charge. Usually you'll have to put out 2 to 7 bucks a night for a room with bedding and no maid service, with communal bathrooms though.

Keith: Hope Mpls. works out for you. Lots of crazies to associate with in that town.

Paul: OK, I'll agree to visit the top of the Sears Tower at Chicon with two restrictions:

- 1) It doesn't cost over five bucks.
- 2) You agree to not wear your Superman costume.

// Technically I have to agree that Time Bandits is not Python, but it still has enough feel to it (plus Cleese in it) that I think of it as one.

Bill Roper: The cover was done up the road from my apartment at the place with the color Xerox machine. 65¢ and 18 seconds per cover was what it took.

Bill Higgins: Yes, yes keep leaking stuff from AW&ST! I haven't been to the public library for three months now so I have no idea of what is going on. I can't even find the time to read the electronics trade journals that come my way. Right now the stack is at three feet and growing.

Renee: Hell of a story. I'm just not sure of how to comment on it. I do know what you mean by personal life getting mixed in with a self-run business. For two summers I was working in my basement in Holland, setting my own hours and speed. I worked on a piecemeal basis repairing electronic boards for companies. Although the freedom was nice, I found myself getting too wrapped up in work and having it interfere with everything else. It would take a very strict set of operating guidelines if I was going to go back into that sort of thing. But you certainly weren't crazy to do what you did. I don't regret what I did, because I grew because of it. I don't think you should regret your actions either.

Cliff: One of these days I'm going to learn how to play some kind of instrument that can be played at a folk. The trumpet just isn't one of those instruments. // Interesting report on the con trip. Reminds me of having to follow Cathy Hudson to her house in Chicago from Houghton one Windycon. I got directions from her on how to get there before we left Houghton. Then when she gave the driver directions and had him take the wrong turn in heavy traffic to get to the shortcut, I beat her to her house by five minutes! I do seem to have some innate ability to find my way around better than average though.

Doug: I've been using the Wang for my word processing for Pyro, Apa-Tech, and of recent Windyapa. It took a while to learn, but now that I know how to use it I love it. It's a dedicated word processor with lots of terminals and printers spaced around the institution. It has 16 dedicated control keys, and most of them become multifunction by using the shift key. I don't know if I want to use Wordstar or a similar program because I have the labels on the keys in front of me to remind me of the function of the keys, and I don't have to rely entirely on a dormant two month old memory when I want to battle my way through. // I'd say that E.T. is without a doubt the best movie I have ever seen. Star Trek II is also good. They found the magic again and built on it. Pity they had to do a number on Mr. Spock though. I don't know how they are going to work without the triad. Of course, they can probably do just about anything with the new transporters. Kirk was talking while in transit in one scene! Add in the genesis device and zappo!

Dick: One of the things (only one?) I miss about being in the Midwest is that I don't have easy access to either the CES show, or the NAMM show (Musical merchandise - lotsa synthesizers), both held at McCormick place. WHO! Isn't about to send me to either to play with gadgets that aren't related to work. Even though the bunnies may be rather shallow and plastic, they're still nice to look at (even if they do wear too much make-up).

Gail: Well, Howdy! Welcome to our wacky world (although you've probably been spying on us for months now). // I've tried to find out about getting on Arpanet through WHO!, but there doesn't seem to be any easy way, even with master control up in Boston. Can you get me some more info on it an any other nets you and Jamie have access to so we can get some sort of fast communication going tween the coasts?

Jamie: I have that album by Kadzin and Shepard. It somehow slipped past my list (which is getting bigger as I remember other albums I have). I'll send you a copy of my list sometime when I get it reasonably near completion. I don't have a cassette deck of good quality yet, but my mini Aiwa ghetto blaster does a fairly good job. Tape trading may be a bit away unless you're willing to settle for automatic level controlled tapes. Send me a list of your stuff if it's easy for you to get one together. // I'm looking with interest at the Praxis, and finally getting serious about purchasing some sort of micro. They're finally getting to my budget level with what I need in functions.

Greg: No room, so I'll save my comments till next time around.

GING MO? FOR THE LIFE OF A BEAR

CHAPTER 7

IN WHICH

PAUL COMES TO AN ENCHANTED PLACE, AND WE LEAVE HIM THERE.

I DON'T BELIEVE I MENTIONED THAT I GOT ELECTED TO THE MOEBIUS THEATRE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1982. UNDER THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION MOEBIUS THEATRE HAS HAD ITS FIRST RUN OF MORE THAN ONE PERFORMANCE (FIVE WEEKS AT AN OFF-LOOP THEATRE), PERFORMED AT XCON, PERFORMED ONE SUNDAY EVENING EACH OF THE PAST TWO MONTHS AT A LOCAL CABARET, AND PERFORMED AT MUNDLEIN COLLEGE HERE IN CHICAGO.

CURRENTLY IN THE WORKS ARE ANOTHER LONG-RUN REVUE, A SHOW AT VICE, A VAGUE POSSIBILITY OF A SHOW AT CONSUME (WE HAVEN'T HEARD BACK FROM THEM), AND OF COURSE A PLAY FOR CAPRICORN 3 (FOR WHICH BILL ROPER AND I ARE COLLABORATING UPON A PLAY TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL).

FOR MYSELF, I HAVE SEVERAL ART COMMISSIONS TO CATCH UP WITH. THERE'S ALSO MY DAILY CARTOONS; AND THERE ARE SEVERAL PEOPLE FORMING A COMITTEE TO GET ME TO SUBMIT SOME CARTOONS TO THE LOCAL FREE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER. I ALSO HAVE A NUMBER OF APAS TO KEEP UP WITH.

THEN THERE'S WORK.

THE UPSHOT OF ALL THIS IS THAT SOME OF MY TIME COMMITMENTS HAVE GOT TO GO. UNFORTUNATELY, I'VE CHOSEN APATECH AS ONE OF THEM. (NEVER, CREDIT THE BALANCE OF MY MAKING ACCOUNT TO THE VAN DORN ACCOUNT.)

I JUST DON'T WANT TO LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE.



THE JERRY-BUILT ZINE:

The Compleat Procrastinator

As usual, The Jerry-Built Zine is written by Gerald Corrigan, 1304 Turtle Creek Drive, Apartment E, Palatine, Illinois 60067, Phone (312)934-1243, and published by Irrelevant Titles Press, his imaginary publisher. (Sorry, Bill)

We've just purchased some word processing software at work. Once we get the printer, I might try doing my zines with that. This would mean that I could write small portions at any given time without tying up my typewriter with unfinished copy. I might (Mind, I say might!) even write more. Alas, this has not yet come to pass. I'm typing this in my usual it's-the-last-minute-omigod-I'll-be-kicked-out manner. As I type slowly while composing a zine (I can do eight pages of tripe for class in the time it takes me to write one page of a zine.) I probably won't be writing much this time. C'est la vie.

A friend at work asked if I was interested in buying a few books from MIT Press, which was having a sale. He thought that by getting a group order together, we might manage to get the 5% discount. I'm not a member of the economic suicide squad for nothing. We got the 10% discount. I won't bore you with a description of all the books I bought, but one of them happens to touch on a pet complaint of mine. This is The Responsive House, Edited by Edward Allen. It is a collection of "Selected papers and discussions from The Shirt-Sleeve Session in Responsive Housebuilding Technologies, held at the Department of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 3-5, 1972." The Introduction begins, "The Shirt-Sleeve Session is built on the idea that dwellings ought to be fitted to people, not people to dwellings; that building technologies ought to be flexible and changeable, capable of fine-grain physical conformance to patterns of human use; that people ought to be able to participate much more fully and easily, directly or through machines, in the design, construction, and later modification of their dwellings; that the few people in the world who have done work based on these or similar ideas ought to get together informally, roll up their sleeves, and share their knowledge." The first couple of ideas could, I think, be applied to almost any technology, and is not. The way many household appliances are designed is a case in point. There is a tendency for many designers to try to add functions regardless of the effect on ease of use. (I'm talking about electronically controlled devices primarily.) As a general rule I, on the other hand, have always felt that if you can't use it without reading the owner's manual, it's too complicated.

Enough of that. I won't go into that tirade now. The other books I bought were mostly math or electrical engineering texts, with the following two exceptions: a biography of Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, who sounds like a very interesting fellow (would you believe a Tory version of Ben Franklin?) and The History of the American Aircraft Industry, edited by G. R. Simonson.

I seem to be very near the bottom of this page. I think I'll start the mailing comments on the next page.

GTB: I can think of another very good reason not to move the GTB-ship to Chicago. I haven't heard anybody volunteer to do the work.

Bill H.: I can't take much credit for the Capricon trivia contest. All I did was tell Rolf that a trivia contest was needed, ask Bob Passovoy to moderate it, and tell Doug Rice what Rolf thought we needed from the hotel. Most of the rest was done by those folks in Champaign.

Valli: I'm afraid the distractions don't exactly make an interesting story. They were just the sort of thing one expects to find at a con. Art show, hucksters' room, pool, jacuzzi, sauna, snowbanks, impromptu filksings, conversation, the usual.

Clif: I wouldn't call that cliquishness. If it were, you would not find it easy to join in with the new groups you find.

AT19:

Dave: You've probably made other arrangements already, but since you asked, Bill Roper, Dave Marquart, Paul Gadzikowski, and I will be staying in a triple in the Executive House. If you still need a room, call.

Michael Sestak: et me: I suppose I deserve most of that. I don't really like using RAEBNC so much, but I am also somewhat less than fond of making nonsense comments or ignoring people. On the other hand, it's a particularly slimy way of filling up a minac, so I think I'll stop using RAEBNC's and let it be assumed that I have RAE. (I almost always have.) Your comments on the attempt to steal the OEship, however, are ill-aimed, in my opinion.

Gail Hanrahan: The Tao of Pooh was written by Benjamin Hoff.

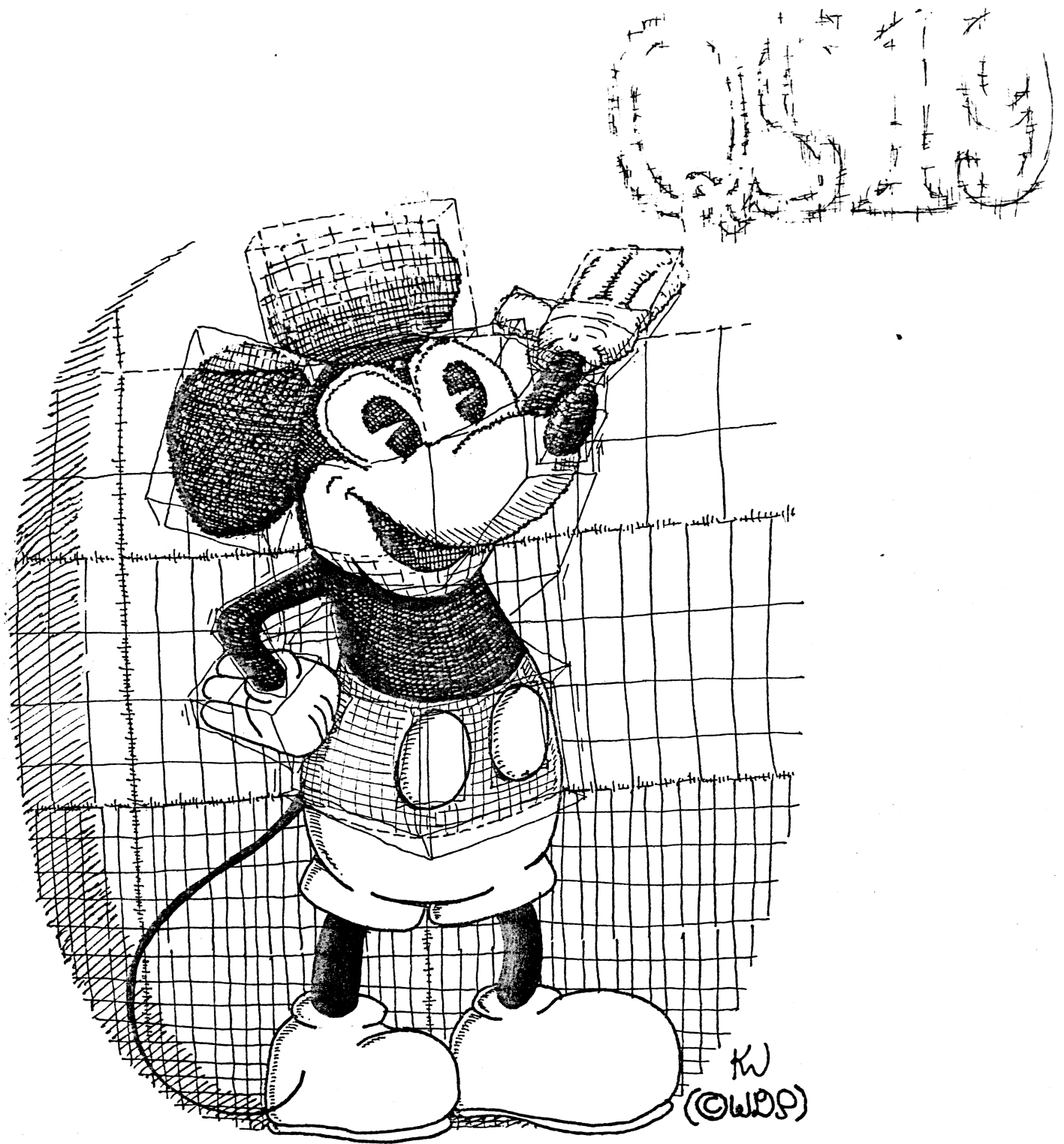
Jamie Hanrahan: I don't know why, but your tale of the on-site courses at McDonnell Douglas fails to astonish me.

Greg: Was the "Raman candle" pun on the cover intended? The quiz was run in Games Magazine a little over a year ago. They apparently had the same heading on it as I copied, which included stating that it had been three years previously. I don't know where it came from before that, as a matter of fact, I wouldn't even know that much if the magazine hadn't run another set recently.

Everyone not commented on: Rest assured that I did indeed read your zine, and enjoyed doing so. I find, however, that I have no comment of any value to make about it.

The page gage on my typewriter is indicating that I am nearing the lower margin of this page. This is probably for the best, as I have a lot to do today, and will not have time to write again for quite a while. That one should be written between quarters and after worldcon. This will not give me much excuse for not writing. Till then, auf Wiedersehen.





THE Quintessential Singularity

6 August 1982

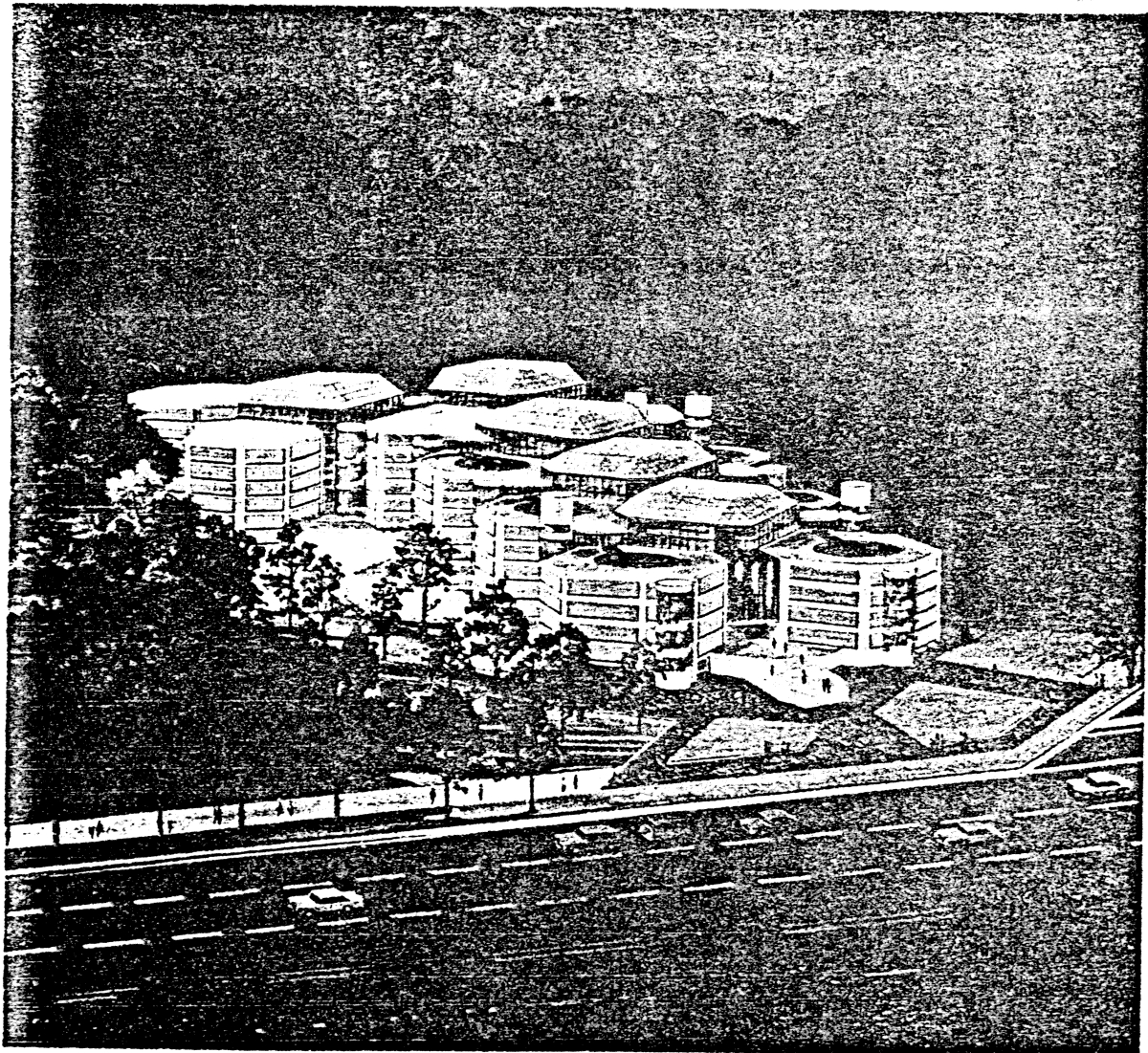
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The CSR salutes one of America's great aviators: the man who
attained 16,000 feet in a balloon-buoyed lawn chair, armed with
but an air rifle and a CB radio, over the Fourth of July weekend.
People such as he make this country what it is today...

* * *



Satellite Palace

Murphy hears our every thought! I was driving back to work after running some lunch-hour errands and thinking to myself that I hadn't had any problems with the Flying Eggplant in several months. Sure, the right front tire had a slow leak I really should do something about, but I could just keep re-inflating it when the pressure got too low...

In less than five minutes, Murphy obligingly solved the problem for me as only he (it?) can. The steering suddenly got squishy and then started to vibrate like crazy. I managed to trundle the Eggplant off to a level area and set to work. So, of course, it started to rain. I got the car jacked up while becoming gradually saturated. So, of course, one of the lug nuts didn't want to come off...

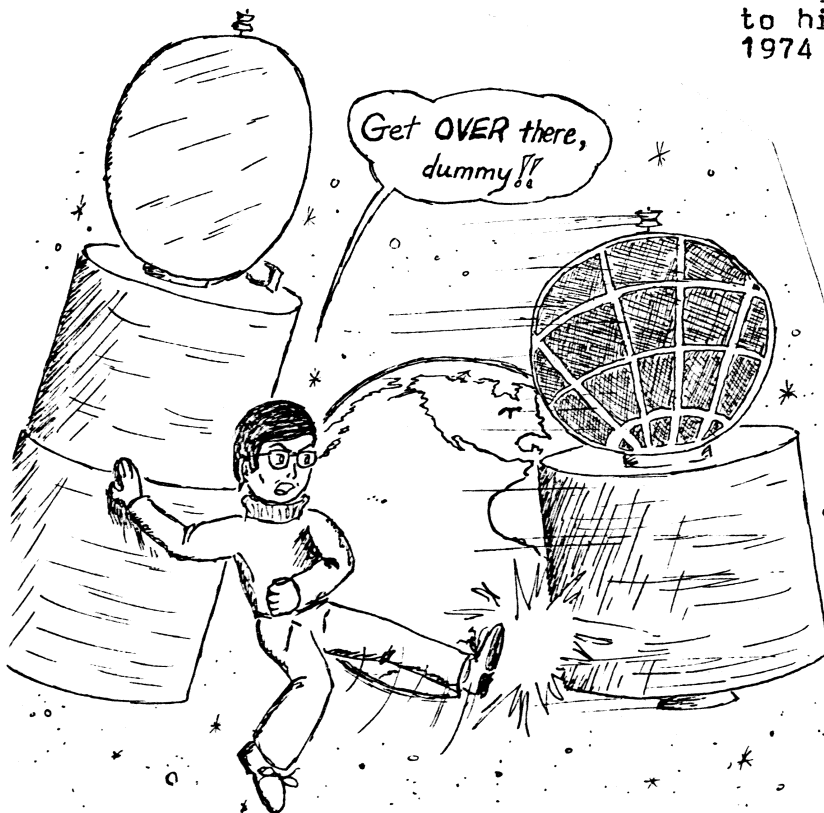
About twenty minutes later, I managed to make it back to work. The deceased tire only had 11,000 miles on it. Since it was a Pirelli, it came with a no-fault 40,000-mile guarantee: it costs a little more, but (heh) it's going to be worth it.

* * *

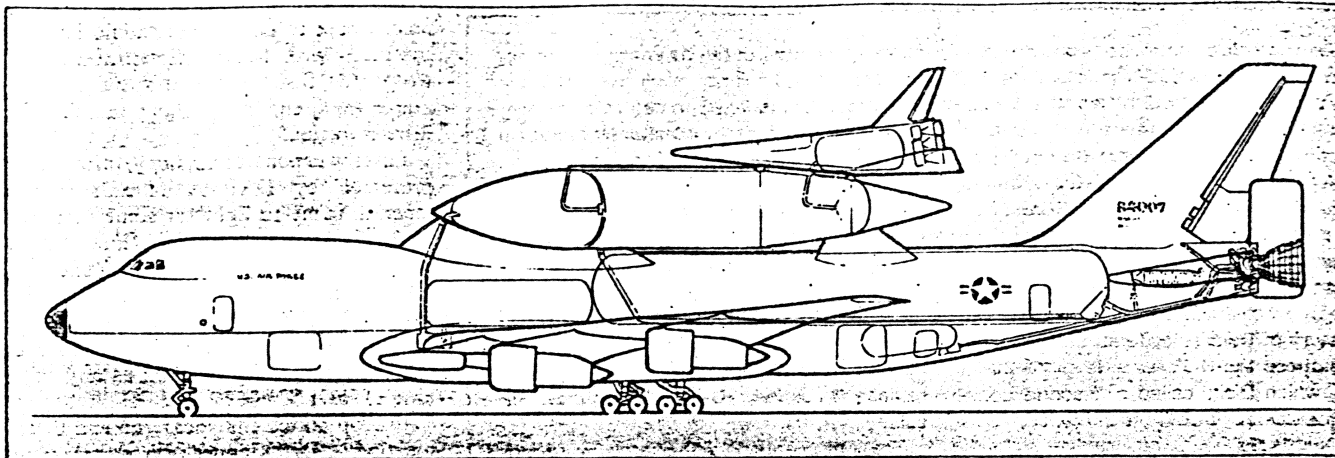
This whole affair is later than I wanted it to be. This summer, though, has been nothing like I'd hoped it would be. I spent from early April until July 1st moving Westar-I. The tanks are nearly dry and the performance of the propulsion system has been deteriorating with each passing month; right now, maneuvers only do about half the job they're supposed to do. This has made the whole business of controlling the dying thing twice as hard. Then, there was the launch of Westar-V on June 8th and the associated havoc for the next couple weeks. On June 25th, my co-worker in O.D. quit. He had given us warning, but his departure meant I had to come in many more nights to cover maneuvers. For six weeks, that also made me 80% of the department; it was not especially amusing to contemplate that I was

doing more work alone than WU used to hire three people to do between 1974 and 1979, when they had only

two satellites. Once we got Westar-V into service on July 20th, I started moving Two. That one I had sailing at the fabulous clip of 1⁰55 per day; the trick is in stopping it again (in the right spot!). This meant still more irregular hours, which is doing little for me physically or mentally. I mean, I'm not as young as I used to be ("You're not as young as anyone used to be!") Anyhow, it looks like I'll have Two parked on the morning of August 25th, just in time for a quick check before hopping off to Chicago (funny how that works out...).



Aviation Week & Space Technology, June 14, 1982



Rocket Propulsion Laboratory Studying Space Sortie System

Space sortie system that would combine a small space vehicle powered by nine modified Pratt & Whitney RL-10 engines and a Boeing 747 carrier aircraft with a single space shuttle main engine installed in the aft end is being studied by the Air Force's Rocket Propulsion Laboratory at Edwards AFB, Calif. The shuttle engine in

the 747 would enable the carrier aircraft to achieve a climb angle of 55 deg. for launch of the space vehicle. The 747 also would carry well-insulated cryogenic propellants that would be transferred to the space vehicle prior to launch from an altitude of 35,000-40,000 ft. The space vehicle would have a payload of about 2,000 lb.

2 New Satellites on Horizon

Plans are under way for the seventh and eighth satellites in Western Union's Westar communications satellite system. Applications have been filed with the Federal Communications Commission for authority to construct Westar VII and Westar VIII.

The two new satellites will have 24 transponders each and may include design improvements which are available at the time of construction such as high-speed, solid-state am-

plifiers. Launches of both satellites are expected in 1985.

According to Bill Brook, Assistant Vice President - Satellite Planning and Services, the new satellites will be needed to handle the growing traffic requirements for the Company's own services as well as for those of current customers.

At present, Western Union has five satellites in orbit. Westar IV and Westar V were launched earlier this year. Westar VI is scheduled to go into orbit late next year.

VIII? VIII?!

The Ratings Game

Just because the space shuttle has a near trouble-free mission does not make it good television, and the networks proved that July 4 by running only spot interviews and picking up the landing 9 min. before touchdown. And in Houston, home of the Johnson Space Center, the local CBS affiliate decided that "Bedtime for Bonzo," starring actor Ronald Reagan and a chimp, beat President Ronald Reagan welcoming the astronauts at Edwards AFB, Calif., hands down.

— Washington Staff

Aviation Week & Space Technology, July 12, 1982

What America means to me...

Washington—Launch of the fifth shuttle mission, the first operational U. S. manned shuttle flight, has been advanced by two weeks to Oct. 29.

Other shuttle program actions under way in the wake of Columbia's last flight-test mission are:

■ **Columbia sequencing**—National Aeronautics and Space Administration management will decide this week if Columbia will be left on line until the third orbiter Discovery is ready for flight in early 1984. The earlier plan was to place Columbia in a 7-8-month retrofit program after Mission 5, leaving a period when only the orbiter Challenger would be available.

To insure that defense shuttle missions and the Spacelab 1 flight are maintained on schedule, some NASA officials believe Columbia should not be taken off line until Discovery is ready or nearly ready for flight.

This would maintain a two-orbiter fleet early but also disrupt modification plans for Columbia. NASA is not planning end-of-mission landings at Kennedy until Flight 7, which could be flown by Columbia instead of Challenger under revised planning.

■ **Mission 5 extravehicular activity**—Shuttle program head USAF Lt. Gen. James A. Abrahamson last week raised the priority placed on a two-man extravehicular activity on Mission 5. The EVA was earlier considered a Mission 5 option, and Abrahamson has instructed Johnson Space Center to consider the EVA a higher-priority option for the flight.

Mission specialist astronauts William Lenoir and Joe Allen are to demonstrate the new shuttle space suits on that flight. High-priority objectives for the EVA are focusing on a payload bay door closing demonstration and verification of some Solar Maximum satellite repair techniques.

■ **Mission 5 scheduling**—The Mission 5 liftoff target is considered a planning date to facilitate Kennedy Space Center work schedules.

Mission scheduling could slip back toward the original launch date of Nov. 11 if Columbia is unable to roll to the Vehicle Assembly Building Sept. 11 and to the launch pad Sept. 21. Columbia returned to Kennedy from Edwards AFB, Calif., last week.

■ **Payload scheduling**—NASA has juggled payload assignments for shuttle flights extending to Mission 20.

Potential orbiter mission changes, turnaround scheduling and other factors have caused the reassignment of payloads to different flights between Missions 11 and 20. The changes are:

■ **Mission 11, January, 1984**—The large format camera and the Indonesian Palapa B-2 spacecraft are assigned to the flight along with the payload deployment and retrieval system test article.

A payload vacancy also remains on this mission to which the third-tracking and data relay satellite (TDRSS-C) originally was assigned.

■ **Mission 12, March, 1984**—TDRSS-C is assigned to this flight, the first scheduled mission for the orbiter Discovery. The payload-bay-mounted materials processing experiment assembly also is assigned. The flight had been the Solar Maximum repair/long-duration exposure facility deployment mission.

■ **Mission 13, April, 1984**—The Solar Maximum repair and exposure facility deployment has been slipped to this mission.

The Solar Maximum repair remains an unapproved flight for which NASA continues to seek congressional support. Mission 13 formerly was to carry the Syncom 4-1 spacecraft, the large format camera and materials experiment assembly.

■ **Mission 14, May, 1984**—Communications satellite payloads assigned include Telesat-1, Syncom 4-1 and RCA-K. A NASA space technology payload designated OAST-1 also is assigned to the flight that was formerly to carry the fourth TDRSS vehicle.

■ **Mission 15, June, 1984**—A Defense Dept. payload along with the satellite business systems (SBS-D) and TDRSS-D spacecraft are now assigned. The flight earlier was planned to carry the RCA-K and Westar 7 satellites.

■ **Mission 16, July, 1984**—The flight remains a dedicated defense mission now planned to use the orbiter Challenger instead of Columbia.

■ **Mission 17, August, 1984**—The Earth radiation budget experiment, the NASA Office of Space and Terrestrial Applications (OSTA-3) payload and a small astrophysics payload designated Spartan-1 are planned; the same complement earlier assigned.

This flight also has a space open for additional satellite cargo.

■ **Mission 18, August, 1984**—Four communications satellites are assigned; Arabsat-A, Telstar 3C, Syncom 4-2 and Westar 7. The Westar payload earlier was not on this flight.

■ **Mission 19, September, 1984**—The Spacelab 3 payload remains assigned as earlier scheduled.

■ **Mission 20, October, 1984**—The NASA OSTA-4 payload is on board as are the RCA-L and third Southern Pacific communications spacecraft.

A vacancy exists on this flight, which earlier was supposed to carry an Intelsat payload shifted to the European Ariane.

Additional changes also are expected eventually in payloads assigned beyond Flight 20 (AW&ST Mar. 8, p. 20). □

Challenger, the second orbiter, is scheduled for its maiden flight on Mission 6 next Jan. 20. It arrived here July 5 and was towed into Bay 2 of the orbiter processing facility. Columbia is in Bay 1. The bays are adjacent to each other but are operated independently.

As of last week, the processing activities for the two missions had these schedules:

■ **Mission 5**—Columbia will be in the orbiter processing facility until Sept. 10. External tank and solid rocket boosters are to be mated in the Vehicle Assembly Building Aug. 4, and the orbiter mated with the booster-tank combination Sept. 10-13. Following interface tests, the shuttle vehicle is to be towed to Launch Pad 39A Sept. 21. Launch countdown is to start Oct. 25 for an Oct. 29 liftoff. Cargo for this five-day mission, the first operational shuttle flight, will be two commercial satellites: SBS-C, for Satellite Business Systems, and Telesat-E, a Canadian communications satellite that will be called Anik-5 when it is in orbit. Columbia will be shipped to Rockwell International's Palmdale facility after this mission for modifications to bring it to operational from developmental status. It will not fly again until September, 1983.

■ **Mission 6**—Challenger will remain in the orbiter processing facility until Nov. 15. During the next four months, the three main engines will be installed as will the maneuvering system/reaction control system pods. Meanwhile, the solid rocket boosters and external tank are to be mated in the Vehicle Assembly Building Oct. 18. Mating and interface tests of the orbiter, tank and boosters is scheduled Nov. 12-17 and the shuttle system is scheduled to be towed to the pad Dec. 5. Launch countdown is to begin Jan. 17. Payload for this mission is the NASA Tracking and Data Relay Satellite, first in a series of orbiting relays that will replace the ground-based satellite tracking system. □

* KSC

Mission #5 has since been rescheduled back to November 11th due to scheduling conflicts on the global INTELSAT tracking network.

Isn't that a sad story?? Anyhow, things look like they'll settle back to boring old routine by the time I return. Our new O.D.er started the beginning of this month. She's a recent physics graduate who has also worked as an interior decorator and an undercover security person in a department store, so she has all the proper qualifications. I've been showing her all the fun we have in the back room keeping the paperwork straight on five spacecraft. She's going to get a real baptism-by-fire while I'm off, since none of the other folks there have had much experience with the new software either. (This is not intended to sound immodest, but it does serve to show how tenuous the situation at work is just now...) I don't care to think about what I'm going to find on my desk when I get back on the 13th.

* * *

It hasn't all been fun and games since June, though. I got in a couple visits to New York recently. The first was a solitary wandering through the Soho district. The Museum of Holography, of which I am a member, is presently featuring an exhibit of sculptures which combine holography and assemblage in striking or amusing ways. A particularly memorable item was a silver platter upon which a disembodied head appeared to writhe and scream in horror, through the miracle of 360° holography. Can Dream Park be far behind?

The Museum of the Surreal and Fantastique is a little two-room gallery upstairs in the Singer Building. During Lunacon, they ran a videotape show on the work of H.R. Giger, concurrently with their exhibition in the city. The managers have a definite interest in science-fictional and fantastic art, so they do show such material from time to time. Such shows must be difficult to arrange, however, because most of the exhibits this summer are of the work of various video artists. Admission is just \$1; I am supposed to be on their mailing list and will try to get there again when another SF display appears.

I also visited the various comix shops (just about all of New York's are in this neighborhood) and Forbidden Planet. Almost any science fiction- or fantasy-related item could be found there, including books, magazines, comix, and even Japanese toys (how do they tell all those robots apart?).

The entire Greenwich Village and N.Y.U. region is interesting to walk around in. There are numerous art galleries, coffeehouses and restaurants that seem worth a visit. All manner of artistic activity takes place there; there are many evening events that might be fun to attend if one were conveniently close to Manhattan (I ain't).

The return trip was the traditional one with my cousin to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The main attraction was a recently-realized bronze casting of Rodin's "The Gates of Hell." This is a 14-foot high, ten-foot-wide pair of doors executed in deep relief; it is filled with writhing, twisting allegorical figures, producing a very active sculptural surface. Half-larger-than-life statues of Adam and Eve stand before the Gates. Rodin worked on this monument on and off for about thirty years; many of his other works are developments of individual figures appearing on the Gates. As for the rest of the Museum, I always get depressed: there is too much to see in a month...

I did get to see the July 5th lunar eclipse, though it meant drugging myself with coffee and getting three hours sleep before driving back up to work rather late. I was at my folks' house, where the sky was covered with a thin haze. I ducked outside for a few minutes every half-hour or so to watch the eclipse's progress. During partiality, the contrast was so great that the adumbrated portion of the Moon looked black. I held on until about 3:40 AM for a final peek after the onset of totality; it took me a minute to find the Moon, being quite low to the south (WHY?) and behind some trees. With the bit of haze we had, the lunar disk appeared a faint orange-red, somewhat lighter toward the bottom. That was it for me -- I was supposed to go to work that day...

* * *

Has this been a summer for going to the movies or what? E.I., to my mind, is a very fine children's story. In one way, this is not to denigrate it. Spielberg has become a master of making our personal dreams come to life (the other side of the coin below); there are many superb cinematic images here and some sequences will become instant "classics." I was also amused to note various allusions to The Resurrection, which make an interesting connection with some people's feelings about what ETs represent. The effects included various nice touches: one that comes quickly to mind is the way ET's pupils constricted when he brought his lighted "healing finger" before his face. Overall, though, I can't feel that this was a great story. I laughed and cried in all the right places, but I was always marginally aware how I was being made to do so. When I thought back on it later, I wondered why. The big problem with Spielberg's works to date is that his characters only react to situations, but are not transformed by them. We never see the protagonists after their experiences. He hasn't yet produced a great dramatic work. He also has a definite problem with authority figures. Only one adult is treated even slightly as a sympathetic figure; this is why I consider it a children's story -- I couldn't really find a place in it for me. The only point this tale really seems to make is about how tragic it is that so many "grown-ups" lose their childlike feelings about the world. This is a point he's made before, however; I'd really like to see all this technical wizardry put to the service of a strong story.

Naturally, I had to see Poltergeist to see how Spielberg does a horror story. Folks, some of this is rough stuff: I found my first viewing of Alien easier to take. Unless you enjoy seeing your worst childhood nightmares (and a few new ones invented for the occasion) produced in as realistic a manner as possible, you aren't going to like this much (not a film to show little kids). All of the effects were used before in films such as Raiders, but the horrifying aspects have been intensified. Otherwise, this really is just a typical horror movie...



... o' course, *THAT* was way back in '75...



... but that was
before it merged with
FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND...

Kip Williams and Cathy Doyle were up this way during the beginning of July. It wasn't purely social: they want to get out of Georgia, so Cathy is looking for library-science-type work elsewhere.

In all, it was a very enjoyable visit with Kip and Cathy and all the Doyle family. So, while Cathy was at a library conference in Philadelphia, I went out to Lake Hopatcong again. Kip, the self-proclaimed "Scourge of Sakshi," and I went to the local

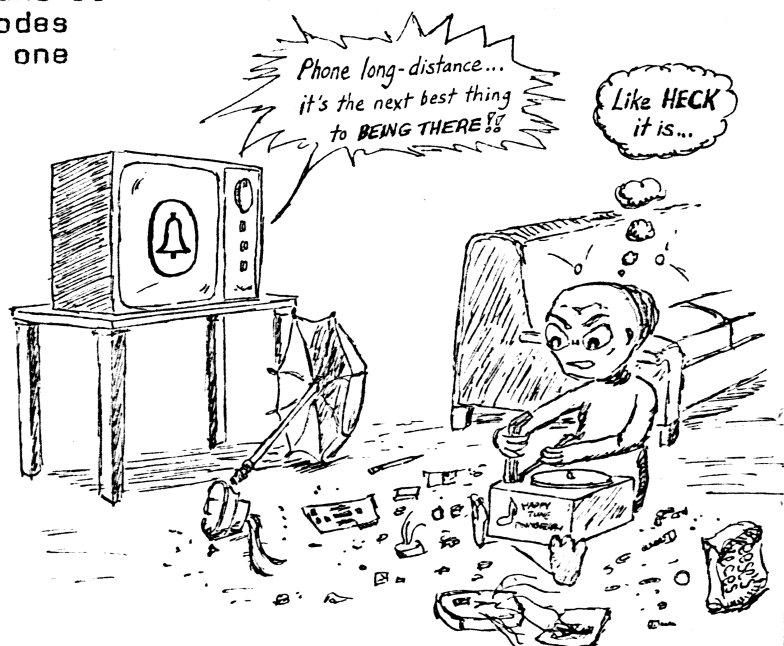
dodecaplex (I'm serious) to see TRON, possibly the world's first software movie (not just "generated by," but "about"). The story is even more "Disney" than usual: the characters are just sort of there to do things to. This film does point to some directions that computer animation could go in the next decade, but one would hope that someone will buy rights to better stories to hook up with. Kip called it "neon swords and sorcery," and seems happy with it as such; I am content to agree.

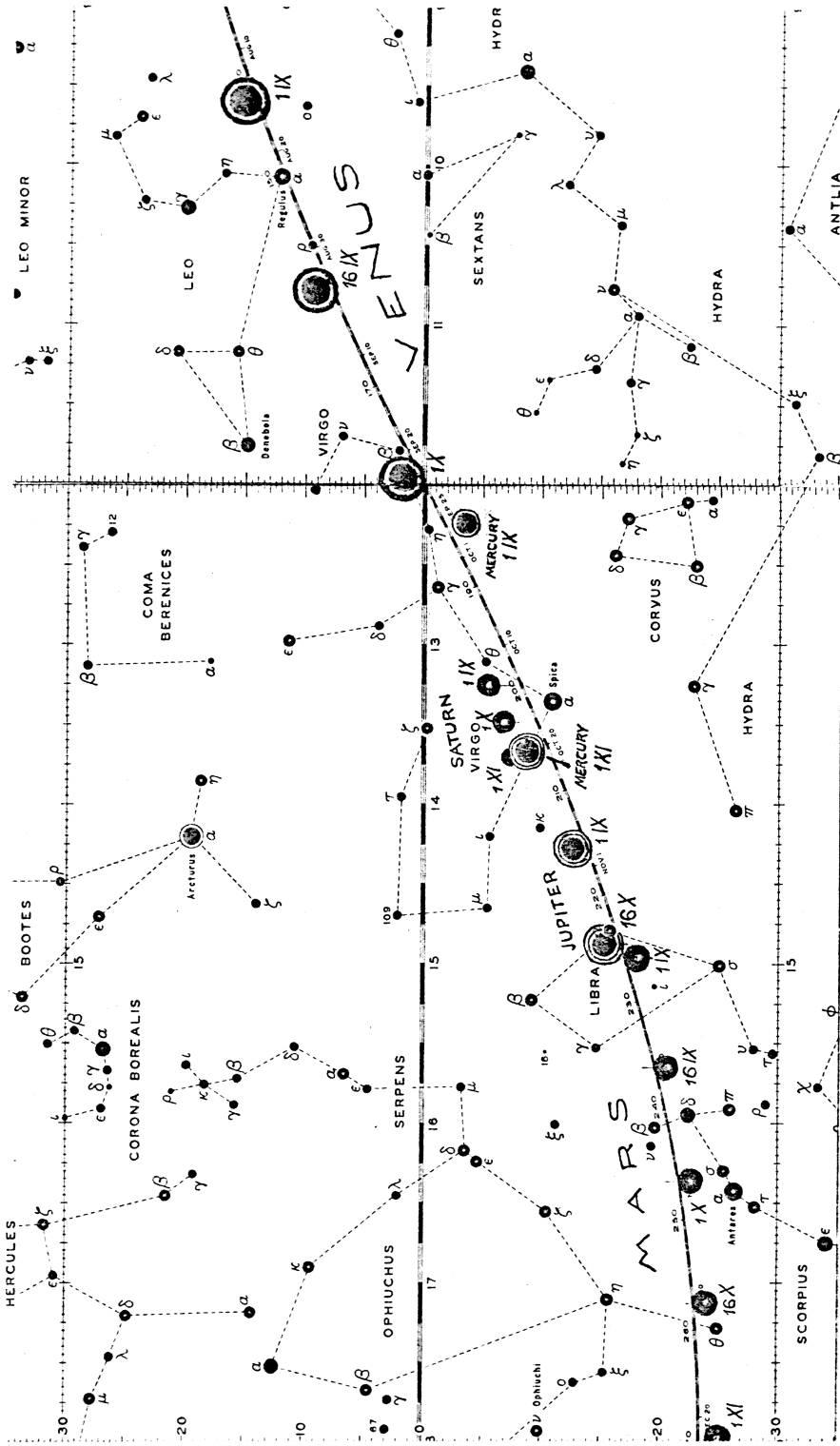
The guy on "Hollywood's Top Ten" considered Blade Runner "beautiful, but dreary." It would be rather hard to imagine a Phillip K. Dick story becoming a commercial success; his visions generally are too bleak for the average taste. I thought the movie conveyed the tone of the original novel very well, but does not manage to make all the motivations clear. You really do have to read the book to understand what happened to the world, why "replicants" were built, and why some sneak back to Earth. Again, the effects are excellent.

If I had to vote for "Best Dramatic Presentation" right now, I'd vote for the new Star Trek movie (I'll be charitable and not bring up the first one...). If drama is intended to deal with the transformation of character, this is the best SF story we've had this year. It is a bit melodramatic some of the time and I found the idea of 23rd-Century persons spouting 19th-Century prose a bit comical, but I think it can stand as one of the best Star Trek episodes ever produced. It may even be one of the fifteen best SF movies ever made (I think we may just have fifteen by now).

I know this is a techie APA, but let me make a quick endorsement of Robert Hughes' 20th-Century art history, The Shock of the New. I especially liked it because it fits artistic developments into the general history of the age, a vital requirement for any historical work. Read it if you want to know what has been going on with art in the last 100 years; read it even if you saw the TV series!

* * *





THE PLANETS -- 1 SEPTEMBER TO 1 NOVEMBER

Mercury attains greatest western elongation on October 17th; it will be quite low to the horizon and nearly due east at sunrise from mid-October on. Venus is gradually vanishing as a morning star, lost amidst the twilight; it will not appear as an evening star until December. Mars has moved off to the east of Jupiter and Saturn. The entire group is steadily descending into the evening twilight, with Saturn disappearing by late September and Jupiter by early October. On November 1st, Mercury and Saturn will be just 0.7 apart and low in the east at sunrise.

The Sun will reach the point of autumnal equinox at 12:46 PM EDT on September 23rd.

LEFTOVER POLES OF ORDER 2 (AT #18) --

DR. G'S: The way things were going there for a while, it looked like "I Love New York" would become the hockey theme song...

Heh heh ... now you know how Mayor Koch feels about upstate New York. Personally, I'd just as soon see New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles granted statehood: any one of them is at least as populous as many States. They're certainly big enough to warrant self-government...

MENTAL OVERLOAD: Observational astronomers are really excited about big CCDs, since they are much better for many imaging purposes than vidicon tubes. That's not much of a market for TI's chip, but it is a market.

POLES OF ORDER 1 (AT #19) --

555: Say, GTB, you musta plunged into a time warp or something. The deadline for this issue was August 10th and October 1992 will feature APA-TECH #81 (assuming we maintain a rate of six issues per annum).

The annual membership graphs were really snazzy. I am somewhat disturbed by the slow decline in contributions, particularly when viewed against the slow growth of the roster. Those trees are just gonna come creeping right into my room -- I can see it now...

Gadzooks, NO!!! I'd better not still be at WU in 1992. I kinda had my eye on a nice spot in the Chryse Planitia, actually.

ROLL UP FOR THE MIMED TOUR: Apparently I missed you on your way through Chambana, back in May, by about ten minutes.

Congratulations to Dr. Mom! What exactly comes under the heading of "Information Science"?

OFF-COLOR REMARKS: I can't say I understand activities like eating contests (or "food fights") either, especially in a world with so much starvation. I

would guess that you would only find such things in countries with superabundant supplies of food. America does love its food (watching any half-hour of commercial television would convince one of that) and such love, I suppose, inevitably entails its perversion from some quarters...

♪♪
Before my day of
finding dee-vees,
I get the Wheaties
for my Eetees... ♪♪



A COOLISH FANSISTENCY: I don't see why you feel your contributions are staid. I've noticed so many people in these APAs who are so worried about how their 'zines are constructed and how their work measures up to everyone else's. This is a hobby. I think of an APA as sort of a collection of open letters or a pot-luck dinner. Just do something you have fun with and send it in.

If you want to cartoon, leave a space and draw in something you want to show everyone. Drawing is a good discipline to make the mind really see something and to make the hand do what your mind wants; the best way to learn is to study what others have done and practice. I used to put cartoons in personal letters, on public notices in the MITSFS Library, and in class notes. I did this to create excuses to practice; otherwise, I wouldn't take time at all. I've been spending more time at it lately, but I still don't spend as much time as I'd like (since I still want to work, read, sleep, travel...) nor am I anywhere near as good as I'd like to be (or should be: I have had some formal study). Anyway, show us some stuff if you want -- you are among friends.

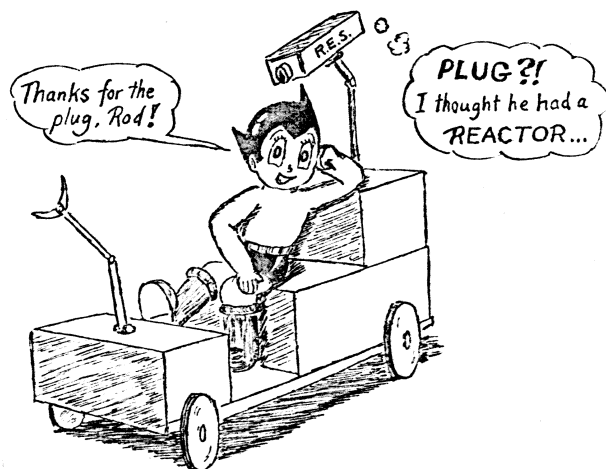
From your description of the way people are shuffled among projects at McDonnell-Douglas, it amazes me that any defense systems work at all. It sounds like the facilities there make WU look sophisticated; even we gave up cards ages ago. Our site director liked the whiteboards we saw at the Bedford DEC facility so much that he got one for our conference room. (Boy, you Digital people are SPOILED!!)

CONVEYOR OF CATEGORIES: It might also be mentioned that Dr. Tezuka is another classical example of the fan-turned-creator (like a couple of American film directors I know who shall remain famous...). As a schoolchild, he belonged to an animation fan club and collected works by Disney and the Fleischers. He was educated as a physician and even practiced for a time. He began to devote more time to cartooning, eventually producing an incredible number of comic books of various genres (though SF is probably his favorite). He was able to raise enough money to open an animation studio; that was 23 years ago. Some of his creations still number among the most popular world-wide. He has a strong sense of story and his works are imbued with fantastic elements, humor, and a overall moral tone. (That's why he's one of my favorites.)

Very small payloads of, say, a few kilograms could be put into orbit with a fairly small multi-stage rocket. The payload-to-total-mass ratio would be worse than for a full-size rocket, since the propulsion system probably has to have a minimum mass to contain and control the fuel. I would guess the whole missile could be about the size of a V-2; is that within a hobbyist's means?

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY CON: Rolf told me the Receding Bill story at Rolf'n'MaryCon. Has a suitable revenge been planned?

A bee that's 4% DDT! I wonder what that's doing to the critters above it in the food chain? Would you want its honey?



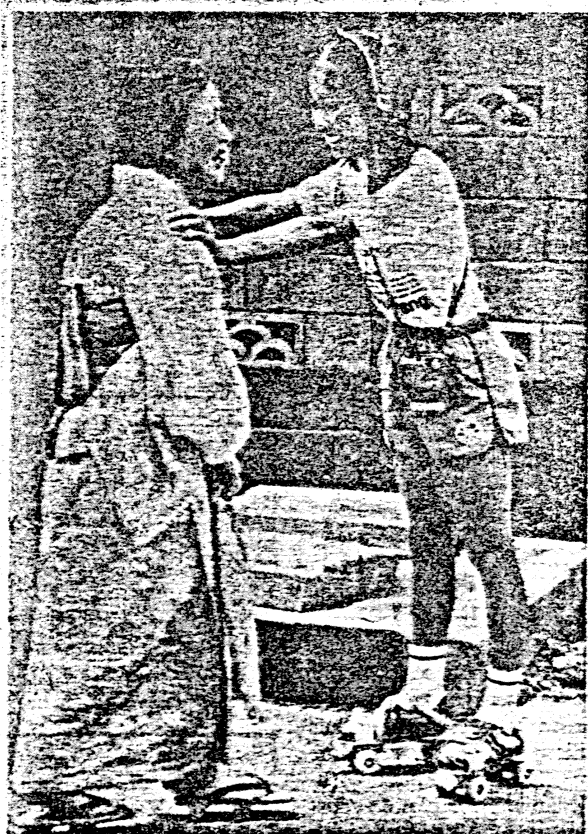
SMITH'S INCANDESCENT PLASMA: It really is (was... moved again, eh?) a nifty apartment. I especially liked the way you carpeted your "Lab" with papers (looks something like my room).

Thanks again for chauffeuring me around.

POLES OF ORDER 2 --

COVER: Raman candles!?! Oy, you people should be ashamed of yourselves. I'm (almost) embarassed to admit that I didn't think of it myself. I arrived there from a different direction. "More subtle than ridiculous, or the other way around"? Yes, Bill, you're quite right...

YOUNG AND ABROAD: William Shatner appeared in two Twilight Zone episodes: "Nick of Time" (1960-1), which was the one about the encounter with the fortune-telling machine, and "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet" (1963-4), in which he plays a former mental patient who must try to convince someone that a gremlin is eating a wing of the airplane they're flying in. I had to dig through Fantastic Television to get the titles of the segments. While I was rooting around, I also found that Leonard Nimoy appeared in "A Quality of Mercy" (1961-2) and James Doohan was in a one-hour episode, "Valley of the Shadow" (1963). (All three also appeared in The Outer Limits; which episode of that series did Shatner star in?) A remarkable number of now (or even then) well-known actors showed up in the Twilight Zone, many of them more than once (Claude Akins and Jack Klugman each appeared about four times... (Ooh, which episode did Robert Redford appear in?)



OFF-COLOR REMARKS: It's amazing how much reactionary outrage has been generated by that single sentence of the ERA. I was not terribly surprised that it failed to pass during the extension, which served to confirm some of my darker feelings about this country. I sincerely hope that the legislators who fought its passage get thoroughly trounced in the coming elections. Politics is more anguishing than it deserves to be...

* * *

There would be more, but I'd better knock off for now; perhaps there'll be a supplement.

My room at the Hyatt is quite full up now; many thanks and I hope there's room for everybody. I've made reservations and got a plane ticket to Conclave. I haven't made plans for early next year yet: I need times, places, contacts!!

See you soon! GREEN ETHER!!

"Oh, East is West..."

CINNAMON
ALMOND
BREWER'S YEAST
ABSINTHE

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1
OHAY, WORLD, HERE I AM!
NOW WHERE ARE
ALL THOSE VIDEO GAMES
I'VE HEARD ABOUT?



HIGGINS

I'm Determined To Turn Myself Into A Teenage Software Wizard Before My Thirtieth Birthday

Well, folks, I finally did it.

I finally bought myself a computer.

I've been drooling over computers ever since Babbage started talking about the Analytical Engine. At least it seems that long. I have a mathematical bent and some talent for logic, so I could easily have learned programming at the age of fifteen or so, back in 1969. The only places where one could do so, however, were local colleges, and none of them would deign to allow a mere high school student to play with their precious machines. If only I'd had the chance back then, I'd probably own half the world today...

Later, at Notre Dame, I majored in physics. But because of certain small-amplitude oscillations in my major, I missed the chance to take the only programming course offered to the physics kids, and had to settle for a Kindergarten Fortran class the following summer at Florida International. (My Fibonacci series generator had one fewer line than the teacher's.) By the time I reached grad school, I had developed a severe case of Computer Deprivation. But I had also heard the word "microprocessor" mentioned.

Naturally I grabbed a few digital hardware and mini courses at Michigan State. I met the 8080 and its instruction set briefly. I wrote short assembler routines, and keyed some of them in, literally bit by bit, to the front panel of a PDP-8. One of the 8s in the lab had a bulb burned out. When you single-stepped your routine to try and find bugs, you prayed that there wasn't a mistake in the bit belonging to that light. It was one chance in twelve.

During the same time, though, another factor was having a more profound effect on my computer education. For the first time I met-- yes, you guessed it-- The Teenage Software Wizards.

Mike Bentley. Bill Leininger. Alex Ellingsen. Steve Johnson. Keith Thorne. There were others. They'd had computers in their high schools, dammit. They knew about "operating systems" and "computer stores" and "disk drives." They read strange magazines like Byte and Dr. Dobbs' Journal of Computer Calisthenics and Orthodontia. They OWNED THEIR OWN COMPUTERS!!!

Best of all, they patiently answered questions. I listened with rapture. I went to their arcane stores with them. I read their magazines. I watched them run demos. I grew up with them.

I knew a little, and I soaked up much more by hanging around with them. They were science fiction fans, so I saw most of them at conventions every few months. Some were at MSU. The classroom was good, but the professor could only go so far. I learned at least as much by asking informed questions of the TSWs, sometimes interrupting one of their discussions when it had gone beyond me. (At the same time, of course, I was meeting Software wizards closer to my own age, such as Jeff Duntemann, Bill Colsher, and Dick Smith.)

Years went by. I acquired some money, when it didn't get spent on car payments or conventions or used books. But computers kept getting better. Why buy a 2K single-board machine when I could save up for a fancier one with enclosed keyboard? After that, there were models a bit better, and better. I saved up for a machine with the features I longed for, especially good graphics. I don't know where or when I became fascinated by computer graphics. I just know this: God didn't make computers to crunch numbers, or make out your phone bill, or write your letters for you. God Made Computers To Make Pictures.

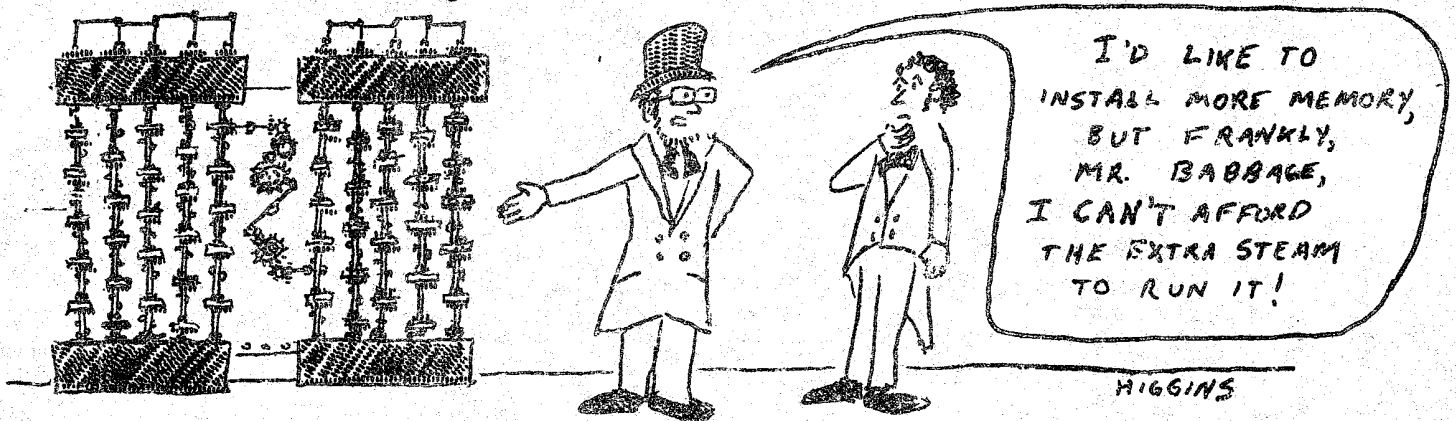
To make a long story short (Too late, Bill. It's already long.), by this spring I had saved enough for an Apple and a disk drive-- something under two thousand bucks, maybe a lot under if I talked to the right person. I had considered much cheaper machines, which offered a lot and had begun to proliferate, but decided in favor of the more capable device. I could almost taste the machine. I started peering a lot more closely at software ads. Then my Toyota melted down.

Suddenly I needed a small pile of money to buy a cheap used car, and a larger pile to keep for the inevitable next one. There wasn't much left for a computer. The Apple was out-- but the cheaper ones were back in! For five hundred bucks or less, you can buy a computer, a cassette recorder, and maybe a little software, and do an awful lot of things

with them. Certainly you can have five hundred dollars' worth of fun, if you're a computer nut.

I won't detail the endless soliloquies in which I rejected the Radio Shack, Sinclair, and TI machines, bringing the field down to the Commodore VIC-20 and the Atari 400, then waffled over which of the two I really wanted. In the end, an inspiration and a closer scrutiny of my bank accounts convinced me I could afford the Atari's big brother, the 800, and be pretty happy with it.

After poring over magazine ads to find the best price I could, it occurred to me that I'd better talk to Bill Colsher, an old fannish buddy now at the Oak Brook Computer Centre. (Or is it Oak Brook Computre Center?) To my surprise, Bill said he could beat the mail-order price for me, so I said, "I'll be down this afternoon." After you've been waiting since 1822, why wait any longer?



Bill Leininger, longtime confidant, co-conspirator, and card-carrying Teenage Software Wizard, agreed to accompany me on the Oak Brook expedition. We played some computer games, looked at magazines, and shot the breeze with Bill C. and his lovely colleague Maggie; then I dumped the wheelbarrow full of money and Colsher handed over the boxes. One Atari 800 with 16K RAM and 8K Basic cartridge, one recorder, one joystick, and one "Star Raiders" game cartridge for when I get tired of programming, or have guests over. We stopped off at a drugstore for cassettes.

I heartily recommend the Official W.H. Leininger Teenage Software Wizard Basic Language Tutorial. Typing with lightning speed, glancing occasionally at the manuals, munching thoughtfully on a Pal Joey's Pizza, he led me through the ba-- er, fundamentals. They told me a Fortran user wouldn't take long to learn Basic-- but William Henry had me writing graphics programs by midnight!

* WELL, HE WAS A TEENAGER WHEN I MET HIM.

Now I'm equipped. Now I can begin to make up for the missed opportunities of the last mumblity-mumble years. Got a lot of work ahead of me, but someday perhaps I will make it to becoming the world's oldest TSW...

As Everyone Knows, Communists Don't Juggle

I've heard some grumbling lately that too many local fans seem to be taking up juggling. People are getting tired of it. The grumblers should heed the experience of radio commentator H.V. Kaltenborn. In 1927 in Canton, anticommunist triggermen were mopping up the remains of a Red rebellion. They captured Kaltenborn, who was out for a walk, and his Chinese-speaking American guide could not convince them that HVK wasn't a Communist devil. He rushed away to get the authorities, leaving our hero in hostile hands. I quote from Fifty Fabulous Years:

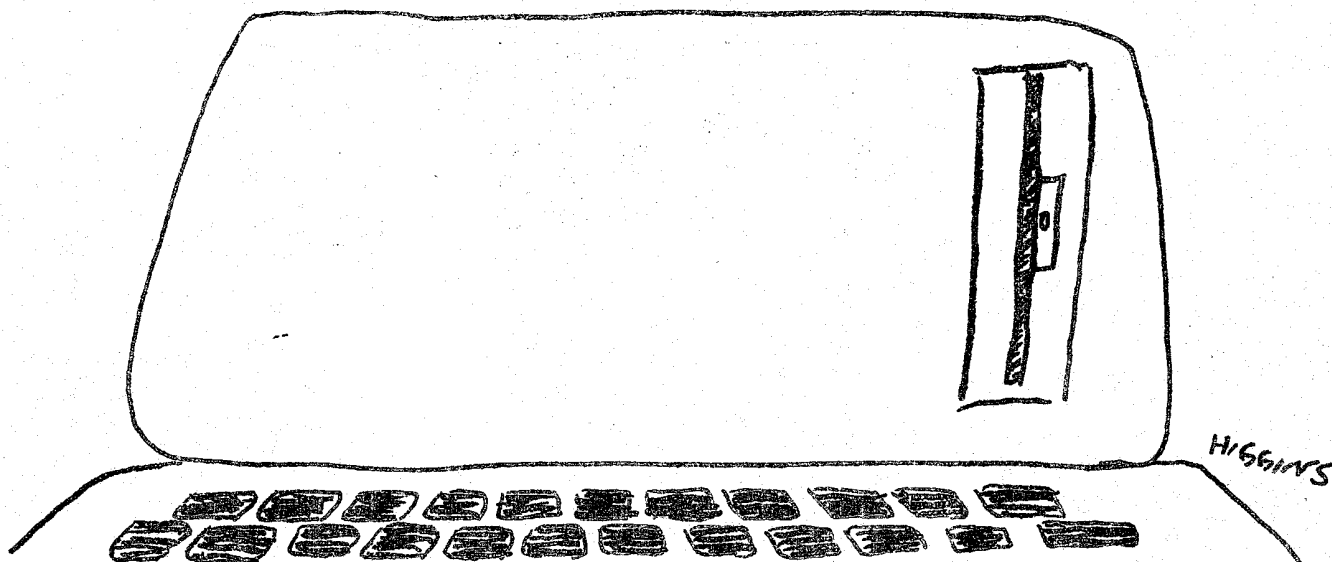
I was hustled off to a nearby hut and my captors closed around me in a circle to get a better look at a dangerous Communist. What disturbed me most was the way they kept jiggling their fingers along the triggers of their rifles.

Suddenly I had an inspiration. Back in my Wisconsin boyhood days I had developed a juggling act for an amateur minstrel show. For weeks I practiced in the cellar of my father's home, using empty Rhine wine bottles as Indian clubs. After a few weeks of breaking bottles I became fairly proficient in keeping three balls or bottles in the air and in balancing anything from straws to chairs on my nose or chin. Fortunately I carried with me a few oranges to satisfy thirst because the drinking water was unsafe. I began to juggle these oranges. The triggermen gazed at one another and then at me in utter amazement. Then the ice broke and they first smiled, then roared with laughter. Hearing this other Chinese crowded into the hut to see the fun. Having exhausted the juggling possibilities inherent in the oranges I next balanced a straw on the end of my nose. This made an even greater hit and when I took off my right sock and shoe and balanced a stick on my big toe my success was complete. They shrieked with laughter. They even put down their guns and seemed to regard the juggling act as a convincing demonstration of anticommunism. When my friend returned a few minutes later with a Chinese officer my captors and I were on the best of terms. The moral of this story, if it has a moral, is-- when in danger don't stand on your dignity.

Beneath The Planet Of The Worldcon

There is more to Chicago than meets the eye. Below, far below, the mundane streets lies a network of semi-underground passages and spaces that would make Lije Bailey feel right at home. I'm no expert on this underworld, but it has come to fascinate me.

If you've been to a Windycon at the Hyatt you already know that there are two "street levels" below the one of the main lobby. As in The Jetsons, one seldom sees actual ground in the hotel's neighborhood.



To the north, Lower Michigan runs underneath its more famous sibling-- yes, the drawbridge across the Chicago River has two levels-- and to the west beckons Wacker Drive. Fed by mysterious subterranean side streets, Lower Wacker must run a couple of miles through the Loop. Green lighting disperses some of the shadows but only adds a bizarre touch to an already eerie scene. I haven't followed it further south than the turnoff to the Eisenhower expressway, so I know only a few of its secrets.

Then, two blocks south of the Radisson and a little north of the river, the Billy Goat Tavern nestles beneath the massive iron supports of Michigan, a halfway house between the sunlit Chicago and its darker image in the nether world.

Seems to me that during Hog-Butcher-for-the-Worldcon we ought to gather natives and out-of-towners into an expedition to explore some of these Trantorian depths. (Maybe we could pop back into reality near the Sears Tower, for Paul's tour.) Be careful, though-- we might not all come back...

Giant Clearance Sail

Eric Drexler gave a colloquium at Fermilab on 7 July, so I got a chance to introduce myself. Some of you may know Eric as a director of the L5 Society; he was active in the student group that built the MIT Mass Driver under Kolm and O'Neill, and he has been pursuing a number of space development ideas in his studies.

The talk he gave was based on his master's thesis on thin-film solar sails. Most proposals to use solar sails envision packages which can be launched into orbit in a Shuttle, then unfurled to begin thrusting. To take the stresses of folding and launching, they must be made of tough Mylar with a thin aluminum coating. The plastic must be relatively thick, and so adds weight without contributing to the performance of the sail. Eric has a better idea.

Launch instead a 20-ton factory which can manufacture sails out of vacuum-deposited thin films-- aluminum 60 nanometers thick. This is thick enough to take gentle handling and to be opaque to light, but too thin to survive a 3-G launch and deployment. The factory would produce a roll of foil a meter wide, and the film would be cut into triangles and assembled into a modular sail some kilometers wide. Trusslike tension lines would support the payload, and the sail would be spun to keep it taut. Pull on the lines, and the payload's position would shift, precessing the sail's spin into a new attitude.

Such a sail would outperform both more "conventional" sails and ion-powered rockets. Acceleration perpendicular to the solar flux would be 1.5 cm/sec^2 , or about five solar gravities. (Proof that the ratio of maximum thrust to acceleration from the sun's gravity is constant is something I'll leave as an exercise.) Nifty maneuvers like "standing still" in space relative to the sun are possible. Density of the sail would be .19 grams/square meter, and Drexler estimates the cost per kilogram of payload to be under \$1 for acceleration to a velocity difference (maybe in this case it's okay to say "delta vee" instead) of 5 km/sec.

The weakness of the plan is that the mechanism for fabricating the sail is complicated and difficult to design. NASA is unhappy about flying something so complex by space standards (though, Eric claims, not by the standards of ground-based industry). The great strength is that it takes advantage of the possibilities of space manufacturing to make a tool which may well make further exploitation of near-Earth space and the asteroid belt quite economical. Still, a plastic sail will undoubtedly fly before a thin-film sail does.

Over dinner with Eric I picked up some interesting tidbits: An asteroid has been discovered which takes less delta-vee to reach than the Moon does... and they've hardly started looking yet.// The Xanadu crowd, Ted Nelson and his followers, will meet at another Hypercon at the MIT AI lab on Saturday, 31 July.// A capacitor with one matter and one antimatter plate will hold preposterous electric fields, as long as the polarity is such that electrons are pushed into one plate (+) and positrons are pushed into the other(-). Then the work function is the amount of energy needed to rip the nuclei from the metal... How you might get the antimatter plate to hold extra negative charge, or how you connect it to your power supply, are not yet clear. // The superconducting Mass Driver Two was a failure. They tried to cut corners by keeping the bucket cold with Wood's metal rather than liquid helium, but it ceased being superconducting ("quenched") over lengths of the order of one coil spacing. Back to the drawing board.

Those Were The Days When Machines Were Machines...

I stumbled across a nifty journal in the library tonight. It's Annals of the History of Computing, published by the American Federation of Information Processing Societies. It's now in Volume 3, so it can't be very old. In it I find an assessment of Babbage's notebooks, accounts of various computers and cipher-breaking machines in the World War II era, and reprints of articles by Johnny von Neumann. Volume 3, Number 4 is given over almost entirely to an account of the ENIAC by Arthur and Alice Burks. From the looks of the book review columns, there is a burgeoning activity in this field of history. Recommended for a good browse.

Okay, Misha, You Asked For It

Monopoles? Briefly, a monopole would be a point source of quantized magnetic charge, analogous to the electric charges found on electrons and protons. Right now one of the four Maxwell equations says "divergence of magnetic field is zero," which means that there are no sources of magnetic charge. Dirac speculated that it might be amended so its right-hand side would include a nonzero magnetic charge density. He showed that if magnetic monopoles do exist, and if angular momentum is quantized (it is), the quantization of electric charge automatically follows. And that quantization is still one of the greatest mysteries of physics: why is every electric charge an integer multiple of the charge on the electron?

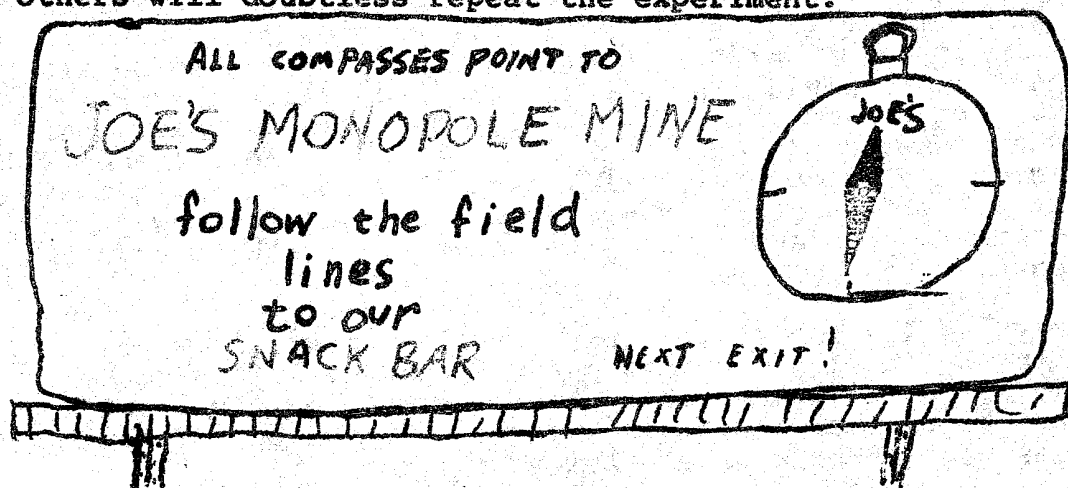
Anyway, at the moment the only way to make a magnetic field is by moving electric charges around. If there were magnetic monopoles, they would have static magnetic fields. Just to keep the equations symmetric, a stream of moving monopoles would create an electric field too.

In the sixties some of the traditional objections to the existence of monopoles were weakened, and physicists began to search for them, but without success. They became unfashionable for a time, especially after a 1975 cosmic-ray event turned out to be a false alarm. Lately, though, various attempts at a unified theory of electromagnetism and both nuclear forces have given a new motivation for monopoles.

A consequence of these theories is that monopoles would be very, very massive, like 10^{25} electron volts-- which would help explain why they haven't yet been seen in accelerator experiments. So the search is beginning to heat up again, a little.

I cribbed much of this from Dick Carrigan and Peter Trower's article in the April 1982 Scientific American, and you should go there if you want more detail. Carrigan is an interesting guy: around Fermilab he is Mr. Monopole, a globally-known authority on the subject. He is also the co-author, with his wife Nancy, of two Analog serials, The Siren Stars and Minotaur in a Mushroom Maze. And, judging from the signout cards in the library, he reads the same kind of books I favor.

Trower and Carrigan's timing could not have been better, for within a month after their article appeared, Blas Cabrera at Stanford announced that a candidate monopole event had turned up in his apparatus. A moderately technical account of his experiment is given on page 17 of the June Physics Today. Cabrera used a continuously circulating current in a superconducting loop, and monitored it with a SQUID, a gadget extremely sensitive to changes in magnetic flux. If a monopole passed through the loop, it would cause a sudden change in the amount of flux in the loop, which is quantized. The apparatus ran for more than three months, and on 14 February just such a jump in flux was observed. Since he's only got one event, Cabrera is naturally cautious about claiming anything, but he's working on a fancier apparatus, and others will doubtless repeat the experiment.



Mailing Comments on Apa-Tech 18

GTB-- Your rotating editorship proposal sounds a bit confusing, but it's de facto what's been going on anyway. Might as well try it for a while.

Rod--The MiG-25 can fly as fast as or faster than the SR-71 for short periods, but you just about have to melt down the engine to do this. One reason we don't have faster planes after two decades may be that we've reached the point of diminishing returns. High speed is really not a very important feature in a combat aircraft. In Vietnam more than 90% of air combat took place at subsonic speed, and essentially all took place below Mach 1.2 or so, even though there were high-performance aircraft on both sides.

About ten years ago Ray Stevens had a version of "Turn Your Radio On" that got some airplay. I presume this was the one you heard-- it was the first one I heard.// My beard seldom shows up even in good photos, let alone low-resolution digitizations. I guess it blends in with the shadows under my chin.// As to combined hovercraft/hydrofoils, you have a good idea. The assault vehicle being built for the Navy will have rigid sides that help contain the cushion and hold the propellers and rudders. You can't take the ship out of the water, and there is some drag, but it is much less than a full submerged hull has.

Keith-- I liked your written account of the Ford Museum ordeal even better than your oral one. // I also admire your guts in giving up money and independence to pursue your PhD. Good luck and good hunting.// If you persist in treating Michigan State in '88 as a serious prospect, I will fear for your sanity...// At Ishercon you and I and Steve and Carol Johnson discussed dividing the world high-energy physics budget up evenly among the claimed 4000 people working on it. At about a billion dollars annually, that's \$250,000 apiece. If you told each physicist to take his share and do the best science he could with it, would he still support the construction of giant facilities like Fermilab, CERN, SLAC and DESY? Or would smaller numbers of people do smaller experiments? And would the quality of physics done be better, or worse?

Al-- So you printed Pyro 32 out of your own pocket. Is that like getting your pants pressed?// Aviation Week does have some nice pictures, and of course a few news tidbits, but keep in mind that by and large it is pretty dull. Its matter-of-fact approach treats exciting space ventures in the same way as a change in DoD accounting procedures. The reason I buy it is that I harbor a dream of working in the space business someday, and I want to be familiar with the industry. Since I know you have similar ambitions, I suppose you might subscribe for the same reason.

John-- Liked your account of the shuttle landing seen from Penney's. The Japanese now sell a version of the TV set Hugo Gernsback proposed: a console model with a large color screen surrounded by several black-and-white screens. On these small ones you can keep track of what's going on over other channels, and switch (using remote control, natch) if necessary. // A chum of mine patronized Dr. Baker, an ex-professional wrestler now a psychiatrist. "DON'T INTERNALIZE YOUR AGRESSION!" he would shout. "Go take it out on somebody!" My friend may have exaggerated slightly.

Paul-- My brother says you can get to the 88th floor of the Sears Tower for free, and the view is almost the same as from the top. Should we investigate?

Bill-- I agree that an intelligent person ought to be able to learn the ropes in a company with or without much previous experience. A not-quite-relevant story: as a junior physics major I applied to Cordis Corporation for a summer job in Miami. "You realize," the interviewer told me, "that we're looking for engineering students for this job." "There's nothing an engineering student can do that I can't do," I told him in my best Horatio Alger fashion. As it turned out, the job involved tech writing, which I flatter myself I'm better at than your average engineer. I still think my assertion was true.

Re a Chicago OE for Apa-Tech: "Who bells the cat?" I haven't heard any local member volunteer for the post.// In West Chicago, in addition to our problems with tailings and contamination from the old thorium plant, we are sitting on thorium-bearing rocks. Our water comes from deep wells, and every time we take a shower, we breathe dissolved radon gas... // Your typer has crenellated underlining. Did it come with the machine, or did it cost extra?//

Jerry-- I have to agree with Misha in 19. It sure is hard to comment on a zine full of RAEBNCs. You managed to write a four-line "no comment" to Doug. I wonder what the world record length is. How long is it possible for a RAEBNC to be? Could this be the explanation for Dhalgren?

Valli-- It's all very well to talk about a surrogate Ishercon, but where would you find another big house populated (exclusively?) by fans? They are rare in our crowd. And you'd have to persuade the inhabitants to put up with an Ishercon-like onslaught.// Re the question of hicks controlling state legislatures, why would Wisconsin be better than Illinois for Chicago to live in? W. also has only one big city, so the rural folks probably dominate the state government there. I admit I know nothing more about the situation.// Um, if it is improper to declare yourself a SMOF (and I will concede that it is), then just who does it for you? Maybe SMOFs are nominated and elected at the Worldcon business meetings. I wouldn't know; I always sleep through them.

Clif-- A notable masthead. Is Saline, Michigan the town where the Old Salts go when they retire? And (2pm-10pm + or - 40%) sounds like real programmer's hours. // Say, if your company's research into home computer image processing has turned up anything which might be useful to me, could you pass it along? Publications, citations, algorithms, software sources, etc.? // Non-weapon SF gadgetry: some time after meeting Mr. Proni and his friends, I used my knowledge of electronics to think up a hardware emulator for the Timebelt (a belt-buckle time machine-- perhaps the ultimate in Consumer Electronics) in Gerrold's The Man Who Folded Himself. Later Tullio pointed out to me that it would more easily be done in software, probably with a CMOS microprocessor and liquid crystal displays. I never did anything about it, though.

Re the Ohio State hexapod robot: I guess you don't know Steve Johnson (a Foundering Father of GT and once a member of this apa) or Jerry Hansel. Both of them worked on the robot project while in grad school. Come to think of it, PPRC'er Paul Westerfield is in that department right now. // Keith Thorne and I bought Barry Gehm a copy of The Biochemist's Songbook recently.

Greg-- Chief Murphologist at O-on-P? Shouldn't that be Murphologist? Murphytician? Not to be confused with Murphodite... // A self-propagating ring of colliding spacecraft debris? I wouldn't mind a look at that paper.// Reliable sources say there will be a Windycon this year, in December, but it'll be a total relaxacon, and will get no publicity but word-of-mouth. I trust word-of-apa is sufficiently discreet.

Mike B.-- Funny how complicated a van or car is. Heinlein's critique in The Rolling Stones is on target-- but in the years since he wrote it nobody, least of all Heinlein, has offered a more practical and more elegant means of doing what the IC-powered car does.

Mailing Comments on Apa-Tech 19

Cover-- Greg, your drawing is either more subtle than ridiculous, or the other way around.

GTB-- Graphs and index were interesting. Members with the largest number of pages were Greg, me, Jamie, and Dave Levine, in that order. None of those with low membership numbers contributed much over 20 pages apiece. And a few members appear to be making a career out of minac.

Dave-- Your text looks good, but readability would suffer if your repro got any worse. I presume you did the zine on that fancy electrostencil machine in X-con's mimeo room. // Word-processing your college papers?!? Gee whiz, I'd better get cranking, or every kid in America (not to mention Canada,

Europe, and the British Isles) will be able to program better than me...// I'd like to see your Chrysler Building paper. Did you know that Chesley Bonestell, granddaddy of astronomical artists, was a draftsman for the C.B.'s chief architect, and claims to have come up with the idea for the scalloping on its summit?

Misha-- "...still residing in that Postal Box Number 1866"? I didn't know they made postal boxes over six feet tall. Or do you have to crouch when you go through the slot?// Lively zine this time; your attack on poor Jerry was full of vinegar, but I guess he deserves it.

Gail-- Ain't 1200-baud modems wonderful? // Like many Apa-Techies, I'm looking forward to meeting you at the Worldcon.

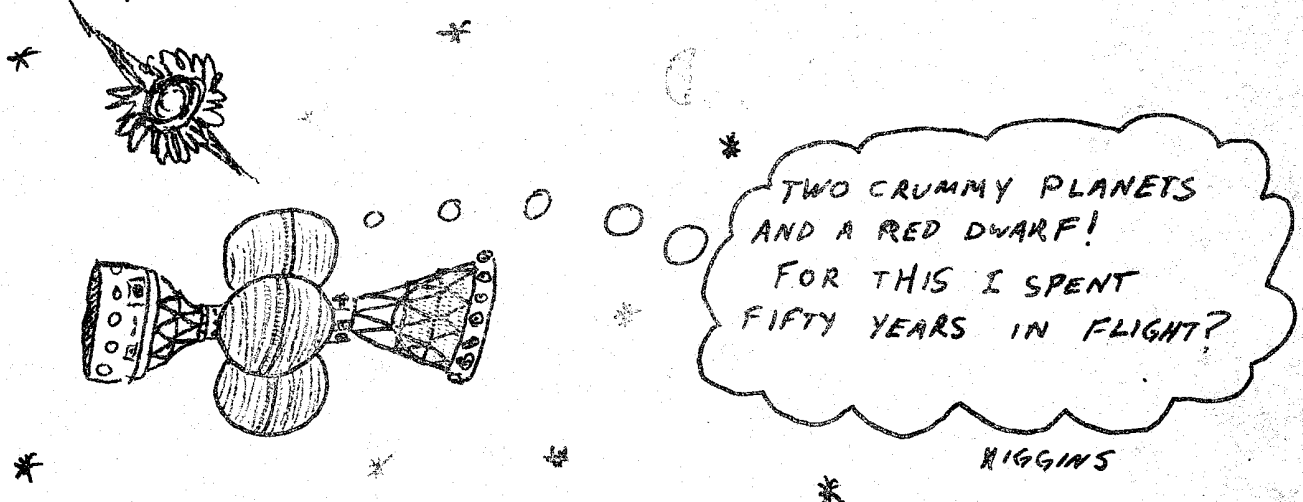
Your answer to Greg's question about artificial intelligence-- "Undoubtedly we'd learn something from it, if not about computer hardware, about people"-- suggests the Psychological Fallacy of some AI work. Baldly put (in my best straw-man fashion) it says: "If computer program X succeeds in imitating some facet Y of human behavior, then the human brain probably works like X to produce Y." Lots of effort in AI has gone into projects based on attempts to understand psychology, but in my kibitzer's opinion, they have not been as fruitful as those of the Let's Try To Make The Machine Do Some Neat Stuff school. For a survey of AI from the psychological point of view, see Margaret Bowden's Artificial Intelligence and Natural Man. (I found it dull and couldn't get through it.) For an excellent history of the field, very readable for the nonspecialist, I recommend Pamela McCorduck's Machines Who Think.

Jamie-- Eckhouse and Levy's VAX book recently arrived in the lab library. I'm not sure I can understand much of it, but I'll give it a try.// "The usual mediafan's stories feature "guest stars" easily identifiable as the writer and friends..." Wow. A sweeping generalization if ever I heard one. But I'm not in a position to judge whether it's true or not. (Paul?) // You use a "spinoff" argument to try and justify interstellar flight. This has always seemed quite weak to me, even when NASA or Fermilab used it. If you really needed to make electronics smaller, to develop a nonstick coating for frying pans, or to learn to mass-produce superconducting magnets, an R&D program dedicated to solving your special problem could do it at a fraction of the cost of the much bigger, mostly irrelevant program. No, to justify the Apollo program, or high-energy physics, or Project Daedalus, you must give other reasons; spinoff is just a side benefit.

Good luck with your Olivetti. My mouth is watering over Smith-Corona's new \$900 daisywheel printer, by far the cheapest around. I wonder how low its price will eventually get?// Byte is getting ever more absurd. It has more and more pages of ads, but its hobbyist orientation is dimming. I don't know about you, but I feel abandoned, not only by the magazine, but by all those companies who have galloped off to woo those small-business dollars. Atari at least still seems to care about us.// Your essay on, er, that network was very informative and potentially useful. Thanks. However, I am counseled that putting such information in print is risky, and all members of the apa should be advised to keep it quiet, and use it with plenty of discretion.

Donna--I'll bet if you invited Cliff to Kalamazoo sometime, he would come.// I enjoyed your affair very much (even if I had to leave early) and would like to see all the photos Mary took. Gad, I love to have my picture taken...

Rod-- Hah! I was reading Asimov's The Noble Gases when you were still knee-high to a neutron! (Perhaps I exaggerate.) And I still don't believe in Helium Fluoride. Even if you could make it, it would probably have to be under some crazy laboratory conditions of high pressure or low temperature, so that only "technology indistinguishable from magic" could make it into ammunition for a handgun laser, and make it in the quantities you'd need (see Jamie's discussion in 19).



Greg-- Nice Insley cover. (Why is the wizard's hat made of dotted lines? why are the buckets?)// Has John Nine "cleaned out Columbus" only in the sense that he's bought all the interesting SF? Because we like to read other things, you know. Maybe John will reveal his bookhound secrets for towns which he's mined out. // When in college I avoided learning to play bridge, knowing that if I did there was a very real danger I wouldn't graduate. Never did pick it up. // The "Far Centaurus" Effect (Slow starship is passed in flight by faster, more modern starships) has always

fascinated me, and must haunt any starship designer. Imagine landing on a planet of an alien star, and finding it covered with McDonald's stands and I Love Lucy reruns...

The reason why Daedalus was designed to go to Barnard's Star originally was that there was some evidence that BS had planets. Alas, before the design was finished the evidence was shown to be lost in the noise... I agree that, all other things being equal, Alpha Centauri is a more interesting system than BS. Three more stars to study close-up!

Clif-- DDT-loving bees? Great. Now all we need are germs who think penicillin is candy.// Speaking of journals like AW&ST and C&EN, I recommend Electronic Engineering Times. It is a biweekly newspaper with very fast, very good coverage, not only of new products but of social issues related to engineering. Its columnists are another bright spot. Free subscriptions are available to readers with the customary XX qualifications. Subscription Dept., Electronic Engineering Times, 560 Northern Blvd., Great Neck, N.Y. 11021

Doug-- One would think that IBM might long ago have put out some interesting typefaces on its golfballs. Old English, for instance, would be nice. But apparently nothing is available.

E.T. and Tron demonstrate Hollywood's rapidly developing ability to show us anything the creators can imagine. This could lead to a new age of artistic freedom, but don't hold your breath.

Note also that the techniques used in these movies are not fully mature; the creature in E.T., for example, could not have been synthesized on a computer and then matted in. It would have clashed with the natural appearance of the actors and settings. Tron can get away with this because it's supposed to take place inside a computer, in a fantastic setting. Even so there seems to be some difficulty, some jerkiness or flicker, in combining the live action with the animation. The NYIT feature, The Works, will also look okay when it's released at last, because it's fully animated. But someday (ten years? fifteen?) computer-generated images will be indistinguishable from photographed ones. Then A.J. Budrys will be summoned to Hollywood to work as story editor on the TV series Warbirds of Time.

Dick-- Zaxxon does have wonderful graphics, but why does it have to be so damned hard to play? By the way, I just saw an astonishing commercial for Zaxxon on TV. I'd never seen an ad for an arcade game (as opposed to a home video game) before. The spot featured animation of the plane's point of view, which while dramatic is hardly what one sees while playing the game.

SMITH'S CORONA

* Dick Smith * 710 S. Scoville * Oak Park, IL 60304 * (312) DUF-FUND *
for Apa-TECH #20 - August 1982

You'll notice that there is a new address above. Valli & I found out a while ago that our landlord was selling our building. The new owners want our apartment, so we're moving again! The new place is only a few blocks from the old one... I hope the move goes easily. It's a two-bedroom house with a basement; there should be enough room for us if we squeeze.

The worldcon is almost upon us (assuming that this issue of Apa-Tech gets out to you before then...?) and almost all of you should be at Chicon. I'm afraid I'll see less of you all than you might hope (or perhaps you'll consider yourselves lucky?), as I seem to be doing several strange jobs during the con... this will keep me a bit busier than I'd like.

The easiers-to-describe of these strange jobs are the two panels: I'm on a panel about mimeo technique and a panel about Fanzines & Computers. I'm afraid that the last will degenerate into talking about the fanned and his word-processor, but we'll see. I hope to talk about electronic-mail systems (especially HOBBY electronic mail, like the hobby bulletinboard systems) and how they might apply to fandom/fan-publishing in the future. Besides those, I've promised to help with the Masquerade, the MimeoRoom, the DailyNewsZine, and I hope to give a party of some kind. Then there's this job I'm doing for Doug & Gretchen that I get to dress up in a Monkey Suit for... but that's ok, because Corrigan and Gadzikowski are going to be in Monkey Suits, too. I hope to have time to sleep!

Trying to get caught up on something I've been rather lax on, I will proceed now to the best part, the

***** Mailing Comments *****

Apa-Tech #19: Congrats, third annish!

DaveLevine: Not bad for mimeo... I'm glad you showed up; the XCon mimeo room needed a few customers! // I'd buy the "C" language processor, considering what I know about what you know. It's alot easier to learn a language on a non-hobby system, tho, than it is on the micros... in many cases, there are just enough non-standard features in most microprocessor implementations of any given language, that you will confuse yourself in you are using a "standard" text. I know that's changing, but I don't have too much faith, yet.

MishaSestak: "Stay out of the woods!": Huh? Wuzza? // For someone who complains that you want good comments, you sure don't leave much that is suitable for commenting. Oh well. // Do I read your comment right where you say that you don't drive because your eyesight is so bad? What is the problem, and why isn't it correctable?

GailHanrahan: Someone has done strange things to the typeface your zine is set in... notice for example the kerned "fi" and "ff" letter pairs. Also, something is wrong with the vertical stroke of the lower-case "r". But, yes, I do like the production. // For the record, my boss's boss's boss (that is, my strange Vice-President Delmar, who gets me involved with product-planning every once in a while) says that 200 dots-per-inch is the minimum tolerable density for processing business documents in the real world. It's the standard (old) fax density, so I guess there is reason to use it as a guesstimate. // Glad you like ELP... I have some of Keith Emerson's music on the piano now as a "set yourself a difficult goal" practice piece. It tends to run to 6 sharps or flats, and then there are the sections that say things like "improvise over main theme here". Fun! // I'm glad we don't have organized fandom here in Chicago... I don't want to be in a pizza eating contest. Altho I'll reconsider if someone else has to buy the pizza. // It takes extra-smart software to get rid of "widow"

lines (those one line parts of paragraphs) the text-processor leaves. It helps to be able to do something about the spacing between the lines, and it would be contrary to troff's simplicity to do any such.

JamieHanrahan: You may feel more spontaneous at a typewriter, but it doesn't make any difference in my writing that I can tell, except that it's alot more trouble to fix typos with a typewriter than with the computer. It is true that I can (and do) plan to write the front part of the zine last with the word-processor, but that's just order, rather than content. The text-processor I use (RUNOFF, same as you) has an underline feature, so you shouldn't blame the auto-repeat for all those underlines... it's even easier to make them with Runoff. // I can't read my netmail more often... there are only 24 hours in a day. You know you can ask ITS when my last login was by ":F username". Or whois will do it. // You have probably seen the same articles on how those micro-unix's you talk about aren't really compatable with each other... I think that unix is getting much-too-much play in the hobby area where the features and complexity isn't needed. Not the CP/M is any better, but what the heck... I still like RT11 V4 SJ. It's really easy to use, and the DCL command interpreter is powerful enough to be useful, while still being understandable by an engineer who is just trying to get work done. But I always did have funny ideas. // yct GTB re Express Mail: I'm told that we have Express Mail service to EVERYWHERE, so you can get two day (or 3, if you allow for me not being home at the right time) service to Kazoo by sending it via me. Just enclose the extra ten bucks.... // gct Roper re signal of assholity... I'll use that one sometime. // As I said over the net, I don't think it's a good idea to talk about the ARPANET here. I hope all the members of this apa can keep quiet. Some of my friends in NewEngland don't like to mention the name of that very large online apa outloud, much less put things in writing. And the T-shirts for, um, "... .." members have the name of that apa on them in Morse Code! Low profile is right! But anyway, if you (meaning anyone out there) can find an excuse for access, I can be reached at QUIDLY@MIT-AI at the moment, altho that may change, as the AI machine is aging badly. I think there are a few other GT members around the net, but it's hard to say just who at any given time. I'm disappointed that there seems to be no convenient access at all in the midwest, but perhaps I just don't know the right people. Once again, PLEASE DON'T TALK ABOUT THIS STUFF! It's just bad luck to mention out loud... there are enough problems with access already.

DonnaStruwe: "Out of 7 people in our room at XCon, 6 were up and dressed at 7:00...": how could they help it, with the noise from all those others to wake them?!? // Couldn't you come up with a slightly less tacky name for your party? But sorry I couldn't make it, anyway.

RodSmith: Thanks for putting thru the ROETEM (why is it called that?) plans. Oh... I just figured out why the name....

GregRuffa: Tell us more about the Museum of the Surreal and Fantastique. // Glad you liked Eric's. We have, of course, many more strange resturants. Come back and try some more! // I disagree... with your comments to Roper about slow hiring and American business.... It only took me 3 months after I graduated to find the job I wanted, and that wasn't business's fault. The problem, is your inability to pre-guess the job market. That's your fault, right?!? // That goofy quiz originally came from Games Magazine. It has been thru almost every apa I'm in, besides being passed around the office. Games commented recently about how much it has been passed around without credit. They also commented about how many people had sent it in, either as "something that was passed around the office" or as "my own creative work". // I wish I could tell who you were commenting to... but those scrambled titles leave me cold.

SECRET

Clifflynt: That's a shame about the Motorola Fortran compiler. Oh well. // I don't like to make long drives in convoy... besides the silly games you had played on you, there are always the traditional yellow lights. And I like to drive along at 65, without worrying about keeping up or keeping back with the other guy. // re yct BillH: I suspect that if you watched TV, you'd learn the correct jargon for shooting at cops, and for watching TV, but probably nothing that would help you communicate with REAL people even if you (gak!) watched Real People. Perhaps on radio...?

DougVanDorn: Thanks for the description of WordStar on the IBM. What you say helps reenforce my continued prejudice against text-processors (as opposed to word-processors) for new users. // re yct movies: Your comment on ET should read "It's such a good movie!" What pabulum, even if I did like it.

ME: You just can't stop moving, can you!

+ + + + +

Why hasn't some GT genius put up an Electronic Bulletin Board? I still think that there would be enough traffic just in the Chicago area to justify the system's existence. There's just the matter of paying for it. I'm checking... give me a while longer, tho, before I do it. But I seriously think that SF Fandom should take its lead from the hobby-computer people just as we did 75 years ago when we stole the idea of the apa from the hobby-printers.

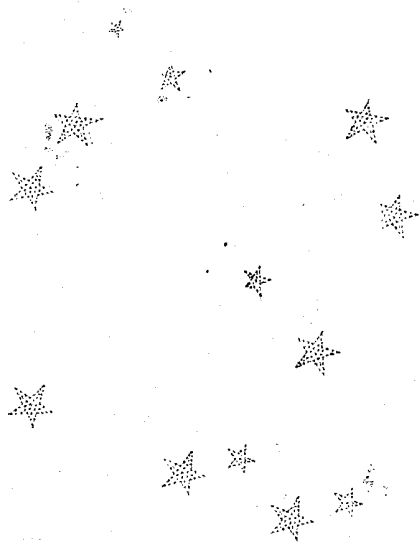
All osrts of high-tech things are soing on in the air-waves nearby, but you haven't noticed. Two examples:

- (1) Channel 32 in Chicago broadcasts a "night-owl" video-text service instead of a text pattern or something equally useful. It has news and sports and weather and games and so on, and consists of an hour cycle thru the various displays. It's possible for a late-night person (I noticed that Bill Higgins watches it) to get addicted to it. But you didn't know that channel 32 has a full-time video-text magazine inserted in its Vertical Blanking Interval 24 hours a day; you just don't have equipment to receive it. This same zine goes out over Satcom 3 to the entire nation... it's probably impossible to figure out how many cable complaies are repeating it. They have a 100 page zine using the British format. The NightOwl service is produced with the same facilities, and is, infact, extracted from the main zine.
- (2) I just found out that radio station WLS-AM has been broadcasting in stereo for a while. I don't know anything about what format they use, or anything else. Once again, there aren't any receivers out there to receive the broadcasts.

It's interesting that both of these show places where a broadcaster is producing an advanced product, and I suspect that the main purpose is to reserve the bandwidth for future use. That it demonstrates the companies forward look is only a side issue.

That's all for the moment. I'll fill the last page with something strange! See you all soon.

Pick



Dr. Gonzo's Erratic Elfanumeric

presenting the usually incoherent and inaudible zine from Valli Hoski, now at 227 S. Kenilworth, Oak Park IL 60302 and can be rung up at (312) DUFF-VMH (honestly!!). Being writ disgustingly early before the next deadline, but better than not at all, this May, 1982 for ApaTech 19.

Hot Times on the Old Town Tonight

At the request of various members, I shall present more than the usual mailing comments this time round, and entertain you with tales of ~~decadence~~, ~~self-indulgence~~ and good times had by myself and other fen one weekend in sunny southern Calif. But first, a quick rundown of activities since early this year:

January - New Year's @ Doug & Gretchen's
 Confusion (a marvelous snowstorm and Phyllis
 Eisenstein as GoH)
February - Capricon, lots of parties too
March - more parties, no cons
April - moving, trip to CA, Marcon, surprises from friends
May - too much work, no X-Con for me, spring finally comes

Where should I begin this tale. There is the amusing fact that a friend unexpectedly dropped into town the week that I was getting ready for the trip to CA and trying to organize everything. But what is life for if not to be surprised, right? It was strange calling someone who lives 500 miles away to find out that they were in town, something like a $\frac{1}{2}$ block away. But it was really nice seeing someone that unexpectedly; it just played havoc with my packing and work plans. C'est la friendships. All right enough with the happy pretrip report already.

One nice advantage about working in the business field is that one gets sent to conferences. Well, a conference, in my case. I took advantage of this option at work to go to a convention in San Diego in April and stop in LA on the way. I wanted to see Jamie Hanrahan and meet Gail and also see Keith before he expatriated to the wild north. Well, I did see everyone and had a terrific time no less. Within 12 hours of my arrival in LA, the stereotyped images I'd held of the southwest had proven false, mostly, and I'd fallen victim to the sunshine, warmth and lush vegetation. Beginning what was going to be a marathon everyone-comes-to-visit-Keith session (but I will let him tell his own story), I flew into LAX on Friday night after having grave doubts in Chicago traffic as to whether I'd make the flight. Before very long, the seductive breezes and balmy night air relaxed me and I fell victim to the southern climes. Arising at some unearthly (for me) hour on Saturday that began with strawberries (in cereal, after all, I mean I am a GTer), I was entertained and given a grand sight-seeing tour with Gail, Jamie and Keith. Right on our left we have the San Fernando Valley as seen from Mulholland Drive, and here we have the exclusive Beverly Hills which managed to be even more ostentatiously capitalistic than the northern Chicago suburbs. Had a chance to talk shop with Jamie, which is marvelous because someone actually understands what it is that I design for a living!! Thanks for the tour of DEC's LA Ed. Serv. Offices, Jamie! Had dinner with the marvelous crew and later spent a very nice, ~~decadently~~ warm late evening

sitting in the outdoor jacuzzi. There is just something ephemerally good for the soul to be sitting in a marvelous jacuzzi at 11 PM with good friends. I highly recommend it. Anyway, Sunday found me zipping around LA with everyone again, seeing the La Brea tar pits (*gurgle gurgle*) and the LA Cty Museum of Art, along with the Santa Monica beach and all the native going beaching. Oh, I almost forgot, I did get to pay tribute to the ocean as well, due to the indulgence of Keith who dutifully drove by the Pacific on the way back from LAX, as well as Jamie and Gail who drove by the Pacific again on Saturday and got to see me run from a big wave like any other prairie-locked soul. Back to Sunday. After a nice dinner, Keith drove me down to San Diego faithfully tolerating my sleeping presence until I got confused and couldn't read the San Diego map. Keith dropped me off at the Sheraton Harbor Island and sped back LA-bound. I checked into the hotel and fell asleep, waking to play the professional for the next 4 days, alternating between conference sessions on Computer Based Instruction and afternoons at the pool. San Diego gave me a nice sunburn, some new professional information, while LA gave me an intensely good time with some old and new friends, new personal pride and integrity (don't ask, it's a long story.)

Thanks go to Jamie for his touring help, Gail for being so friendly to the stranger from the midwest, and love to the both of them - Jamie is known in ApaTech's pages, so I shan't laud his talents. But Gail his wife is a very friendly and sweet person, and GT is gonna love her to pieces!! And as for Keith, well, thanks for putting up with all my idiosyncracies and for being such a gracious host. Apologies for any inconvenience that my visit caused, as I know things that week were rather hectic. But it was nice to be able to visit and be made welcome. I'll be happy to take people to Happi Sushi during Chicon for a really good sushi dinner, as we discussed.

Aside from that glorious adventure, life has been hectic. My mother came to visit as soon as I returned from San Diego, and while it was good to see her, I still hadn't recovered from the moving and jet lag. Then I began a very intense 5 week training program at work, which I am in the middle of right now (oh the terrors of COBOL and IMS!!) Without the support of some good friends I would probably be in very sad shape now. Then came Marcon and what better way to cure one's ills than a con

Marcon Lots of techies in attendance, and I even got to have dinner with everyone again. Not as large a crowd as at Windycon, but still nice to see those that were there. It was a rather abbreviated Marcon for me as I didn't get to Columbus until 5 AM Saturday due to a late departure. Between seeing everyone on Saturday and Sunday, I got oh, about 9 hours sleep total. BUT the people were worth it. (But I had better give some concrete con facts, else Doug will say this con report is just like all the rest.) The con suite had terrible hours, the con was boring. The people there made it worth while and it was certainly good to see the techies. Alice and Mike's room had Phil Foglio's 26th b-day party, where Mr. Higgins and his infallible ukelele were sorely missed. Aside from GT I also got to see some non-midwest friends, like David Singer and Diane Goldman from Florida, some midwest friends like Lan from southern Michigan and Candice Massey. And of course there was the usual people who I always mean to see, and do - exactly twice, enough to say "We must get together sometime" and "Well, maybe at the next con". It's getting ridiculous at times. Some vague smocking and coups were plotted, a few embarrassing moments, but mostly a nice respite and chance to catch up on friends' company and even the drive back with Bill Leininger and Jerry Corrigan was nice since I hadn't seen them in a while, and Jerry's car is amazingly plush AND gets better mpg than mine!

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Enough of my recent adventures and onto the MCs as I have something for everyone in ApaTech 18:

Cover Gee, I thought this was something new-wavish or punkish, but it's Marty so I must be wrong.

555 Times and all that Well, if the apa manages to come out in a reasonable time with rotating OEs, great. Otherwise, those who are able/more willing to cope with a schedule and the resulting pressures should be given the job.//Re "members should try to respect the difficulty of assembling an apa": believe me, I know. I really know. Getting WindyApa out while I was in CA required Dick's, Doug's and Gretchen's efforts. However, the nitty-gritty matters of deadlines, ToCs, collating do take time and effort BUT must get done if the apa is to exist at all. Getting these matters done promptly does mean aggravation, lost sleep and being-sick-of-it-all when the damn issue finally comes out. Personal crises, like moving, are a real pain to the process (again, I know as I nearly lost Kieth's zine for WindyApa when I moved). BUT the apa must come out or else members grumble and begin to wonder if it's worth the effort. Deadlines can be flexible, but have to end sometime. OEs can be soft-hearted but must say NO!! if necessary. Lack of respect for the apa on the part of the OE or/and members will only kill the poor thing. If the burden of an apa is too much to bear, it should be passed on to a new home where it will be loved and looked after. If ApaTech can be located in Kazoo and kept healthy, warm and fed, fine. It certainly is viewed as being in sad shape by some members now. However the Apa Abuse Society is holding it's breathe and hoping that the loyal GT Buckfast, wonderfully innovative Shalmaneser and warmly humorous Inigo Montoya will save the day without any intervention. However, the situation is being watched. Yes, an apa may be a labor of love, but love does not mean neglect. Re moving the apa to Chicago: one advantage I see (as a Chicago Gter) is the saving of my postage \$\$\$. However, I really don't care where it is located as long as (again) the apa is kept warm, happy and fed. //I'll see what I can do for a cover, but my artistic efforts should not be laughed at or scorned, no matter what I do.

Rod Hark! A face seen at Marcon!!//Hm, interesting ct Compressed Verbiage re a Chicon parking/directional guide. Will see what can be done.//Re yr ct me re local weather and re Ishercon: I was far too comfortable to drive through lots of snow to get to Ishercon this year from Wisconsin. So I stayed at Dick's parent's house and missed seeing the folks there at Isher. Goes to show that even midwest locals don't always go to Ishercon.

Keith Are you taking zine writing lessons from me? I had to make sure that I wasn't reading something that I wrote because your writing style this time read so much like mine.//It is quite relieving to hear some good news from you. Some of us were getting worried about you. But then even though I knew all of this already, it is still nice to hear things coming out good for you. Not that I ever had any real doubts//Re Windycon: yes, you were rather spendidly regaled when you arrived here at my office. But more preppy than the traditional business image. That's ok tho, as it's more your style. (Watch out for the hearts of those U-Minn undergrad femme. ok?)//YOU GOT SUCKERED INTO THE MUSEUM over Christmas? HA!! Who mentioned that various fen were going to be in Detroit anyway?? Who organized the trip anyway? Mind you, I had a perfectly good time and what good are techies if we can't ponder the mysteries of how technology works anyway? Mind you, I want to have Tullio's answers so that at least I can get let in at the ranch And if you felt intimidated at all the questions, sheesh, be glad that we thought enough of you to ask. No one meant to make a fool of you I am sure. Besides why would anyone ask you about particle physics

Keith or computers? That's typical Thursday Night fare. But we rarely talk about dynamos and such. Besides it was not worse than orals, because you have nothing to lose among friends. Buck up, we're not after your mind or your ego; you do fine, really.//I still can't believe that I actually knew Marty at MSU. Oh the fickle twists of fate that had me miss everyone there!//It's very interesting how the Ishercon reports do vary from person to person. But at least you had a good time. I really hope that midwest GT doesn't have to go through a pick-and-choose situation again however. We have enough scandals as it is.// "Saw some old friends and met some new ones": gads Keith, you are trying to be master of the understatement that I usually use!!//Re yr great phud search: some of us knew that you could do it all along. Godspeed and good luck with your reaching for your dreams. You deserve not to fall short; just don't forget Chicago fen when you are lost deep in the depths of academia.//How about having a Moosecon in 88 party at Chicon? If Columbus can have a bid, why not MSU? Besides you always wanted to be a con chair didn't you? (As I run out the door before you can heave left-over Whatcon II flyers at me!)//If I ever left civilization I'd take a copy of Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas with me to remind me of all that is worthwhile and endearing about the 60s. Life lived to its utmost. Incidentally that is where Dr. Gonzo originally came from.//Gosh it's nice to see you doing well again.

Al That was quite a battery story. Never mind about the salt-and-battery charge that the EPA could've hit you with.//(Quick she ducks out of reach of flung objects due to rotten punning!)//Sorry Boskone didn't go so well, but my heart is still in New England, so I envy you a little. (Although sunny CA did get a close second for it's warmth and beauty, New England still is my true love.)

John Like your type.//Yup, I understand what marvelous things TV displays are as Doug and I watched both the launch and landing downtown at the Wards, complete with about 15-20 TVs showing various shots.//For an apa slang dictionary - ask Dick. He did a nice one for WindyApa 1.

Paul I liked all your cartoons, but especially the bowling ball one.//Your Capricon report was quite accurate, and quite deserving for you.

Bill Roper Ok, here is a zine with something else besides MCs. Does it suit the bill?//Besides what trouble did you get in when you said this before?//Oh no, not another Good Buddy Bill story!!

Jerry So this is the same Corrigan, the real genuwine article living in the same body at the same address and the same stuff, eh? And this is the same old mailing comment about how nice it is to meet you here.//You do have a nice car, that's both lush and economical. It's sickening, I want one just like it. Remember, if you ever want any help driving to/from a con again

Bill Higgins Thanks for the COA; you were quite clever.//I liked your cartoons again.//Shall we finally go dancing sometime?//Good stuff from AW&ST.//What have you been doing lately?

Renee See some of my cts in the ToC section of pg. 3.//Quite an amazing story of your past 3½ years. I can feel the dreams, the pain, and even the bittersweet lingerings that you said so well. Just remember, GT hasn't gone away. And fen move lots of times. And within fandom life survives under the bizarrest of circumstances, because we all are here together.

Clif Yes, I agree with yr ct re fandom's cliques: but one thing that I found about GT is that while it is a specialized group of people,

Dr. Gonzo's Eccentric Epistle

a companion zine to the earlier edition of Dr. Gonzo's also appearing in this disty of ApaTech 20. From Valli Hoski, 227 Kenilworth, Oak Park IL 60302 and (312) DUFF-VMH, for June/July 1982.

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Somewhere between my return from California and departure for COBOL school my zine for ApaTech 19 got lost. Whether I gave it to some errant soul for delivery to Kazoo and it never made it, or else I simply left it somewhere, this is not clear. I have found the master copy and 5 extra copies I keep for my files, but the 35 copies bound for Renee got misplaced somewhere. So I have reproed it again and it, along with this news update, shall simply appear in A/T 20. So there, I hadn't forgotten everyone in A/T after all.

Oh MY!! I just realized that the next deadline is this Saturday which is tomorrow. For some reason I thought the next deadline was August 1. Oh well, looks like I am doing this just in time for A/T 20 after all. Enough natter, let's catch up on what's new.

Midwescon The first con that I've been to for several months, Marcon notwithstanding. Had a chance to arrive early on Friday rather than late, so I got to see Roxanne and a few other fen before getting lost in the con shuffle. Midwescon is traditionally a relaxacon and this one was no exception. Friday night everyone looked to see who else was at the con besides themselves and hung around the poolside. I managed to ingest a number of rum-&-RCs and so was feeling rather fine all night long. Dick didn't arrive until 5 AM or so, which was long after I had crashed, due to the rum on my part. Saturday morning was a bit shaky as I was feeling the aftermath of that rum. I hadn't had even a mild hangover in quite a long time, and I now remembered how much I disliked them. Oh well. Just to show that I was not totally unaware of my surroundings however, I did talk with and jump up and down over some friends from NY who had come in for the con. The last time I had seen them was last July on vacation, and that was too long ago. The new faces and new news of fen other than the midwest standards was quite refreshing, and I remembered why it is fun to go to cons and see some new folks instead of the same bunch and the same parties con after con. Anyway after I had inundated Frank Balazs and Sue Rae Rosenfeld with how terrific it was to see them again, I did manage to sail through the night. Back to Saturday morning. Everyone arrived by then, Dick at about 5 AM, Herb Johnson somewhat later, and some other faces that I forget. I spent a goodly portion of the morning, after breakfast, hiking up and down the local Kentucky roads around the con hotel in search of a drug store. Provided a good time to catch up on Herb's news and state of his life and get some needed exercise outside. Even managed to find a drugstore that had my contact lens saline solution for cheap. How come they don't talk so funny in Ky like they talk in ~~Hopkirkland~~ Indiana? The sales clerks, et. al. were much more easy to understand in Ft. Mitchell, KY than the corresponding people in Lafayette, Ind. with the fake southern twang. On Saturday evening, after spending time in my bathing suit but in disappointingly little sun, the (now) traditional committee meeting for the Columbus in 85 bid was held. More details about future con bids forthcoming. Suffice to say that with our customary brilliance, wit and cooperation, dinner was a success, conversation charming and beauty nonpareil. After that it was party/party somemore, hang out at the poolside somemore, and just bask in the overall good time.

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Sunday found Dick and I staying at the con, since we had an extended weekend off from work. Midwescon is not one of the most exciting dead dog cons that I've been at. Apparently the poker game on Sunday was interesting, but I wasn't in on it. I did commiserate with Leah Zeldes on our mutual colon problems (seems that my intestinal tract isn't the only one susceptible to crankiness and cramping), especially after having Cincinnati chili for dinner. I did get to watch the NY fan get frantic and officious over their return flights to NY via some budget airline, ah yes, maybe it was Republic. Sheesh, they made midwesterners appear as laid back as Marin County natives. A word of caution for Cincinnati chili: good stuff and the spaghetti version is certainly uncommon but it has no sympathy for one's digestive tract. On Monday, Dick and I drove back through southern Indiana, Brown County, Columbus, Nashville and finally Bloomington. I hadn't been back to Bloomington since the Louisville NASFiC, and I wanted to visit. Ah, I.U. was as lovely as ever, and brought back intense memories of my grad school days. MSU and IU certainly are tied in my heart for good places and good times. Thus closed a long, relaxing and comforting weekend.

Weekend with the Family A weekend or so before Midwescon, I went to Detroit for an endurance family visit. Actually a high school graduation party provided a reasonable opportunity for me to visit with one side of the family in one fell swoop. Might as well get 10 versions of "what I've been doing for the past year" over with at the same time, instead of just 1 or 2. Besides I had been away from my extended family for so long that I actually missed them and visiting wasn't as burdensome as it could have been at another time. I also finally saw my pseudo-nephew and he is a real doll. (Let me see if I explain this succinctly: I am an only child. The closest thing I have to a sister is my godmother's daughter. My godmother is my mother's best childhood friend and is hence my non-blood "aunt". Lorraine is my godmother's daughter, and is married and has a 4 month old son, Daniel. Daniel is the closest I will ever come to having a nephew and I think of him as such.) Anyway, I was tickled pink when Lorraine introduced him to me as his "Aunt Valli". *goshwow* I now have a baby to fuss over, send silly presents and spoil. That's what babies are for anyway.

***** Celluloid Kisses *****

Of course, just like everyone else I will review the 2 latest biggies: Star Trek: TWOK and ET. But can I do it in a ½ page or less?

ST:TWOK was (to quote a friend most aptly) "a visit with old friends". Reassuringly Kirk, Bones and Spock were their old selves, and there were no metaphysical surprises or profound statements made. Everyone had gotten older, albeit gracefully, but the transition was much smoother than with ST I. I wouldn't call the film the cinematic event of the year, but it was a most worthy sequel. Probably what ST I should have been.

ET entranced and elated me. I had been forewarned of the highly emotional content and so removed myself from its immediacy and didn't cry at all during the film. However this did not dull the film's impact but made me more intimately aware. Spielberg is a virtuoso at capturing what it's like to be a child/youth of 10-14 in suburbia in 1982. Accusations of emotional manipulation have been made, but I don't think Spielberg manipulates any more than say, Lucas does by making us cheer the Rebel Forces and boo! hissss! Darth Vader. I realized with a *gack* that Spielberg is a contemporary of mine, a member of my own age group. His accomplishments are wonderful, and yet make me feel terribly inadequate. But the film deserves a Hugo for its sensitivity and quality. Quality stuff.

I suppose we should get on to the Mailing Comments since that is probably why we are all here anyway. Third annish? I thought A/T was older than that but maybe I've jsut enjoyed G_T so much that I thought I've been a member for almost forever.

MCs - ApaTech 19 - Third Annish

Cover Raman Candles? *argh* It could only be the indefatigable Shalmaneser.

ToC/Graphs What kind of screen printer did you use?//The New Members/ Members on Roster graph wasn't the clearest thing to interpret.//Thanks for the indices though.

David D. Aha, the mystery is explained at last. You are a type of architecture major. Now that your degree work is drawing to a close, what shall be next?//Can I get a copy of your Chrysler Bldg. paper to read? It sounds interesting and I am highly interested in all aspects of art history and modern architecture.//Magic Mimeo Land can be fascinating but when I am kept awake at 3 AM by the sound of the mimeo cranking away, my enthusiasm does tend to wane a bit.

Michael Re yr ct Rabbit Runes (I forget who wrote what in A/T 18) re cities work better when they are thought of in terms of people: we could get a rather interesting Form Follows Function discussion going here between you, David D. and myself. Personally I really admire Frank Lloyd Wright's works which use the Prairie style of architecture in his houses. They don't look quite that large on the outside, but the minimal use of walls and maximum amount of open space on the interior make them quite spacious. Now, while I admire Le Corbusier's chapel in France, which looks almost organic, I would prefer not to live in a concrete wall environment. Mies van der Rohe's glass box houses are nice to look at, but I would be paranoid about the rest of the world looking in at me through those invisible walls.

Gail *huzzah* (credit to Misha for reminding me of that word) *welcome at last* Since my last zine didn't make it into A/T, let me extend another thanks to you for your time and attention during my LA visit. The chaffeuring about and touring was muchly appreciated. And I am glad to have finally met you.//Re yr ct Keith: well, Mpls is closer to Chicago than LA, but I doubt if we will see Keith anymore frequently here than we do now. But that's ok, as some things are worth waiting for.//Re yr ct me: the main reason for WindyApa's R rating is that a lot of talk about sex and such has been going on. Talking about talking about sex that is. But if you'd like to see one at Chicon, sure, no problem, as long as the other members say ok. Since you aren't a puppy dog (undesired hanger-on of member of opposite sex), there won't be any problem. For more details or an explanation, ask me at Chicon. I don't want to clutter up A/T's pages with a discussion of current WindyApa topics.//Looking forward to seeing you and Jamie at Chic

Jamie Well, hello again. The above cts Gail re my LA visit and your kind company are for you as well. Thanks again and I look forward even more to seeing you folks at Chicon.//Re yr 2nd ct me: I still have hopes of working in Boston, some day. But I am still tickled at being able to talk shop with someone in G_T finally. Thanks so much for taking me by the LA Dec Ed Serv facility. It was most interesting to see how another company is handling the same material that I am designing.//Re yr Arpanet cts: I always thought that Arpanet, or more specifically, SFL was to be talked about in hushed tones and wasn't for public discussion. Thanks for the general history and all though. However, one still must be very discreet in talking about SFL lest it disappear from t

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Jamie (cont'd) Re Stasheff's works: I just obtained a copy of King Kobol which is the 2nd in the series, for \$4.95 as it only available in the British edition right now. Haven't read it yet. Will let you know if it's crucial to understanding Warlock Unlocked.

Donna I certainly would like to come to Ishercon again, as long as it doesn't snow so much as this past year again. I really meant to come to this past one, but the snow captured me in West Bend, Wisc. Hopefully see you this year.//I saw a copy of the program book for IV $\frac{1}{2}$ and it was terrific! Barry certainly has a nifty sense of humor. Nuff said, have a nice summer.

Rod Re yr ct Keith re wanting to know how as well as what things did: I have just begun to enter into that phase during the past year or so. Just ask Dick how much I ask him "how does this work" or "why does this do that?" Just making up for the science deficiency in my education I guess.

Greg Another person that I am looking forward to seeing at Chicon.// Ah yes, the strawberries and cookies at Higgins'. That was a muchly needed respite during my COBOL school. We'll have to have some such cookies at the Moosecon party at Chicon.//Yes, I would like another copy of the Dickinson cover, but I need to remember to send you a postcard.

Clif Marcon for me was an endurance con, what with arriving at 4 AM Saturday and leaving at about 2 PM on Sunday. I think it was worth it, what I can remember of it.//Ah yes, another Good Buddy story.

Doug See my earlier review of ET. Like I have said before, some women long for Mick Jagger and some long for Paul McCartney. I am bonkers over Spielberg's style and talent. *sigh*

Dick You must be taking ditoo master color and paper color lessons from Karen Chapdelaine. Glad that you are using the rubber stamps from A Change of Hobbit.//ZAXXON wasn't at the video arcade in Bloomington was it? I don't recall it.

Well that's it for A/T 19. Quick I have to repro this and mail it and do a bunch of other stuff.

Take care all and see most of you at Chicon. Remember to vote for Michigan State in 88. If you see a MSU in 88 party flyer at Chicon, stop on by and reminisce or just visit.